

## Gorbachev meets Lithuanians

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev Saturday met a delegation of pro-independence Lithuanians who oppose the Russian republic's decision to withdraw from the Soviet Communist Party. As the group was meeting Gorbachev and several top aides in Moscow, some 5,000 of their supporters staged a rally in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius waving banners protesting that party unity was essential for the success of reforms. The meeting with the Lithuanian group, largely supported by Russian residents of Lithuania, followed discussions Gorbachev held Thursday with the republic's party chief, Algirdas Brauskas, and his leadership colleagues. Gorbachev, who has argued that the breakdown of the Soviet party in Vilnius could lead to an overall breakdown of the Soviet party, is due to visit Lithuania next week. Russian aides told reporters after the meeting that the Soviet leader, who is state president as well as Communist Party general secretary, had expressed understanding for the Lithuanian party's decision.

# Jordan Times

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## Tunis, Tripoli at odds over summit

TUNIS (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat flew from Tunis to Tripoli Saturday after a dispute broke out between Libya and Tunisia over arrangements for a Maghreb summit in Tunis later this month. Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi told a news conference in Tripoli Friday he planned to stay away from the summit on January 15 and 16 because of previous engagements. The announcement was a blow to the prestige of Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, who has just taken over the chairmanship of the Arab Maghreb Union and was counting on a full turnout for the event he is best known for. Arafat, a natural choice as go-between between Ben Ali and Qaddafi, saw the Tunisian president in Tunis Saturday morning and congratulated him on the evening Maghreb summit. Libyan officials, contacted by telephone, said Arafat had arrived in Tripoli but gave no details. The Arab Maghreb Union, which groups Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia, was set up in February last year as a counterpart to the European Community (EC) across the Mediterranean.

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## Consumption and expenditure curtailed; increased revenues forecast; defence and security retains priority slot

# Austerity budget unveiled

By Ghadeer Taher  
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The government Saturday unveiled an austerity budget which cuts private and public consumption, depresses expenditure, and promises increased internal revenue along the lines of a structural adjustment programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The budget, presented by Finance Minister Basal Jaraneh to the Lower House of Parliament, allocates JD 1.105 billion in total expenditures with projected revenues of JD 906.7 million.

Last year's budget estimated spending at JD 1.035 billion, but the proposed 1990 figure, although higher in dollar terms, represents a 20 per cent decrease in real terms because of devaluation of the currency and inflation.

"The 1990 budget is higher by about nine to 10 per cent than the 1989 one, but in real terms it is lower by at least 15 per cent because of inflation," economist Fahed Faneh told the Jordan Times in an interview. "This is also true for the 1989 budget compared with the 1988 budget," he added.

The proposed budget package relies on increased local taxes and other local revenues to cover 82 per cent of local expenditure, up from 73 per cent in 1989, in order to hold the "actual" budget deficit (expected to crystallise at the end of the financial year) to JD 362 million — 16 per cent of the expected gross domestic product in 1990, excluding foreign aid. This is down from an estimated JD 372 million deficit for 1989. One of the stipulations of the IMF accord is that the Kingdom would gradually trim the budget deficit over the next five years.

The "projected" JD 199.1 million deficit, Jaraneh explained to the House, is expected to be covered through external and internal borrowing as well as domestic revenues.

The new budget aims to increase reliance on local revenues "through development and improvement of methods of collection," according to Jaraneh. Speaking to reporters after the session, the minister voiced confidence that the "measures already adopted by the government are sufficient to ensure the projected rise in internal revenues."

But he pledged to maintain social services, especially those offered by the ministries of education and health, and increased current expenditure by JD 98 million over 1989 to accommodate an increase in food subsidies, higher interest on foreign loans and pensions for retired education and health ministry staff.

Current expenditures estimated for education, health, and social development equal JD 127.5 million, an increase of seven per cent over 1989. This does not take into account the devaluation of the dinar or current inflation rates.

The government plans to increase subsidy of essential commodities by JD 15 million to JD 60 million to offset inflationary pressure. The minister explained to reporters later that any readjustment to the subsidy allocation to make up for possible increases in international prices would entail new legislation.

The budget envisages less dependence on foreign aid and projects \$360 million in assistance from external sources for 1990 compared with \$516 million in 1989. Jaraneh told reporters after his presentation that the new

figure represented an estimate with "background," but declined to say if there were firm commitments for such aid.

According to figures released by Jaraneh, the Kingdom's total foreign debts amount to \$8.3 billion, with \$1.8 billion of the total not yet dispensed to the Kingdom by lenders.

Jordan's total military debt amounted to \$3.2 billion of the total, said the minister, who added that \$800 million of the total had not reached the Kingdom.

The budget also increased the allocation for interest on foreign loans by JD 41 million to JD 135 million. A nominal increase of two per cent for development projects in the country is also included. A total of JD 214.2 million is earmarked to pay public sector employees, which is nearly as much as total capital expenditure for defence. However, no increase in public sector wages is envisaged, and this is considered a thorny issue which many observers expect debates to raise during their debate on the budget.

Defence and security account for JD 254.8, compared with JD 252 million in 1989. Jaraneh reaffirmed the government's commitment to the two areas and said it would not tamper with necessities of national security and defence. "Special allocations were made to strengthen our armed forces and develop its self dependency to continue its national role," said Jaraneh.

Economists noted that cutting public and private consumption does save foreign currency or reduce the balance of trade; it also limits job opportunities and reduces overall economic activity.

One economic analyst who preferred anonymity said, "The apparent goals of the new budget are to rectify the economy's course without a clearly-defined policy for economic growth. By increasing internal revenues — which translate into more taxes and higher tariffs — investors would be dissuaded from investing in the country."

Another economist commented that "the 1990 budget may please the IMF, the World Bank and Jordan's creditors, but it does not address the resulting increase in unemployment and projected decline in investment

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Here is the projected budget of 1990 which includes sources of the financing to cover the deficit in the general budget and payment of foreign and internal loans:

### Revenues:

#### 1. Current revenues:

Internal revenue: JD 694.1 million.

Foreign aid: JD 162.6 million.

Total current revenue: JD 856.7 million.

#### 2. Capital revenue:

Installments on returned loans: JD 50 million.

Total revenue: JD 906.7 million.

### Spending:

#### 1. Current spending:

Civil spending: JD 214.2 million.

Military spending: JD 254.8 million.

Other expenses: JD 385.5 million.

Total current spending: JD 854.5 million.

#### 2. Capital spending:

Expenses of development projects financed from the revenue: JD 151 million.

Expenses of development projects financed by special loans: JD 90.3 million.

Treasury loans to companies and institutions: JD 12 million.

Total capital spending: JD 253.3 million.

Total spending: JD 1,107.8 million.

#### 3. General deficit before financing: JD 199.1 million.

### 4. Financing budget:

#### Sources of finance:

1. Allocated loans for development projects: JD 90.3 million.

2. International institutions' loans: JD 162.5 million.

3. Local loans: JD 33.7 million.

Total sources of finance: JD 286.5 million.

#### 5. Uses:

Coverage of deficit in general revenue: JD 199.1 million.

Coverage of installment of foreign loans: JD 68.2 million.

Coverage of installment of local loans: JD 19.2 million.

Total: JD 286.5 million.

## Aoun troops, militia clash in 'gravest' truce violation

BEIRUT (AP) — Army units loyal to ousted army chief Michel Aoun and Syrian-backed militias clashed in artillery and tank fire duels across Beirut's dividing green line Saturday, killing two civilians in the first serious civil war flare-up in three months.

A police spokesman said the clash was "the gravest violation" of a ceasefire called by the Arab League on Sept. 22 to halt six months of savage artillery duels between Aoun's troops and Lebanese militias backed by Syria.

At least 929 people were killed and 2,744 wounded in that confrontation.

The clashes coincided with the arrival of President Elias Hrawi in West Beirut to set up headquarters and receive the credentials of Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente marking Vatican recognition of his government as the legitimate administration.

All other foreign countries with diplomatic missions in Lebanon

have already recognised Hrawi's "national reconciliation" government formed in November to oversee implementation of a Christian-Muslim peace plan to end 14 years of civil war.

The Vatican, however, had not committed itself to supporting Hrawi. Saturday's recognition totally isolates Aoun who has rejected Hrawi's election and an Arab League-sponsored peace plan parliament approved in October.

Aoun's supporters, at his request, staged a "human chain of demonstrations" along the 40-kilometre route from the shell-blasted presidential palace in Baabda to Puente's residence in Harissa to protest the Vatican's stance.

Torch and flag bearers ran past the demonstrators from the palace to Puente's residence to deliver a message of protest from Aoun, a Maronite Catholic.

Puente said during the credentials ceremony the Vatican

favoured dialogue to resolve the current crisis between Hrawi and Aoun to avert a return to violence.

The cleric told reporters afterwards that he would convey to Pope John Paul an assurance given him by Hrawi that "violence is out of the question."

But a stung Aoun later emerged from the bunker of the presidential palace to declare to cheering, clapping demonstrators that "there is no room for dialogue."

He drew wild applause when he vowed to bring to justice Hrawi and all parliament members who approved the peace accord.

Hrawi, also a Maronite, fired Aoun as army commander and interim prime minister in November. But the general remained entrenched in the presidential palace, refusing to turn over the traditional seat of heads of state to Hrawi.

## Four Palestinians shot and injured

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot and wounded at least four Palestinians Saturday during a general strike in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The four were wounded in Gaza City, where dozens of Palestinians burned tires and hurled rocks at soldiers on the main commercial Omar Al Mukhtar street, reporters and hospital officials said.

The strike, called by the underground leaders of the Palestinian uprising, shut stores and stopped traffic throughout the occupied territories, but no violent incidents were reported.

In the Gaza Strip, some four dozen Americans held a demonstration in front of the U.S. consulate to support the two-year uprising in which at least 642 Palestinians have been killed.

The protesters held signs saying: "Recognise the Palestinian State," "Our taxes kill

Palestinians," and "Stop U.S. aid to Israel, end occupation."

Most of the participants arrived here for a major demonstration on Dec. 30 in which about 15,000 Israeli, Palestinian and foreign peace activists linked arms in human chain around Jerusalem's walled Old City.

"As U.S. citizens we demand the end of our government's silence in regards to Israeli human rights abuses. We demand the end of U.S. aid for the occupation, and we call on our government to recognise the State of Palestine," Jon Miles, a landscaper from Tucson, Arizona, said in a prepared statement.

Miles condemned the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and said: "Our tax dollars pay for the killing of unarmed Palestinians... the denial of Palestinian rights to free speech, assembly and movement and other gross violations of human rights," he said.

## Gysi urges allies to pull out forces from Germanys

EAST BERLIN (Agencies) — East German Communist Party leader Gregor Gysi urged Saturday that all foreign troops should leave East and West Germany by 1999 and both states should have their own armed forces by 1991.

Gysi, whose party heads a transitional government in the rump to free elections in May, said the two Germanys should take the initiative in disarming Central Europe.

But, he said, the Soviet Union, the United States, Britain and France, who have kept troops on German territory since they combined to defeat Nazi forces in 1945, should play their part.

"The allies are urged," Gysi said, "to prepare their troops for complete, planned withdrawal in stages by 1999, beginning with the border zone," according to the official ADN news agency, reporting a meeting of the party's executive.

Gysi has no government posi-

tion. But his speech, which expanded into utopian visions of a Europe with no armies at all, clearly turned the spotlight onto the sensitive issue of allied troop presence in the two German states.

Gysi also proposed that both German states cut their armies in half this year and undertake other drastic measures to demilitarise Central Europe.

Communists retain control of the interim East German government pending the May elections, and the call for sweeping disarmament measures is probably aimed at strengthening the party's image as the political force most capable of reshaping the nation.

Cutting Defence expenditures would free up state funds for restructuring industry, pulling East Germany out of its economic morass.

Gysi urged cutting the West German and East German armies

by 50 per cent by next year and said both nations should agree not to modernise or expand their weapons arsenals.

West Germany's army stands at 480,000, and there are 250,000 U.S. soldiers on its soil, East Germany has an army of 170,000, backed by 400,000 Soviet troops, according to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the Warsaw Pact.

West Germany's readiness to go along with such measures probably would be restricted by its commitments to NATO, which depends on West Germany as its defensive front line against the Warsaw Pact.

But as East Germany and West Germany have closed the gap in their relations in recent months, the role of the two military alliances has come into question, and experts have predicted they could eventually be dissolved as Europe's post-war divides are healed.

The military policy expert in West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's political party has proposed establishment of a "European security union" to protect the peace in a united Europe.

In an article to appear Sunday in the Hamburg-based Bild am Sonntag, Otto Hauser proposes a military force independent of Washington and Moscow, which he told the newspaper would serve as "guarantor powers" for a new peace order on the continent.

On Friday, East German media indicated that former leader Erich Honecker, ousted from power, expelled from the Communist Party and bedridden with illness, may be spared imprisonment.

An independent medical team determined Friday that Honecker was in too poor condition to sustain the rigors of prison life and may need additional surgery to remove a malignant kidney

tumor.

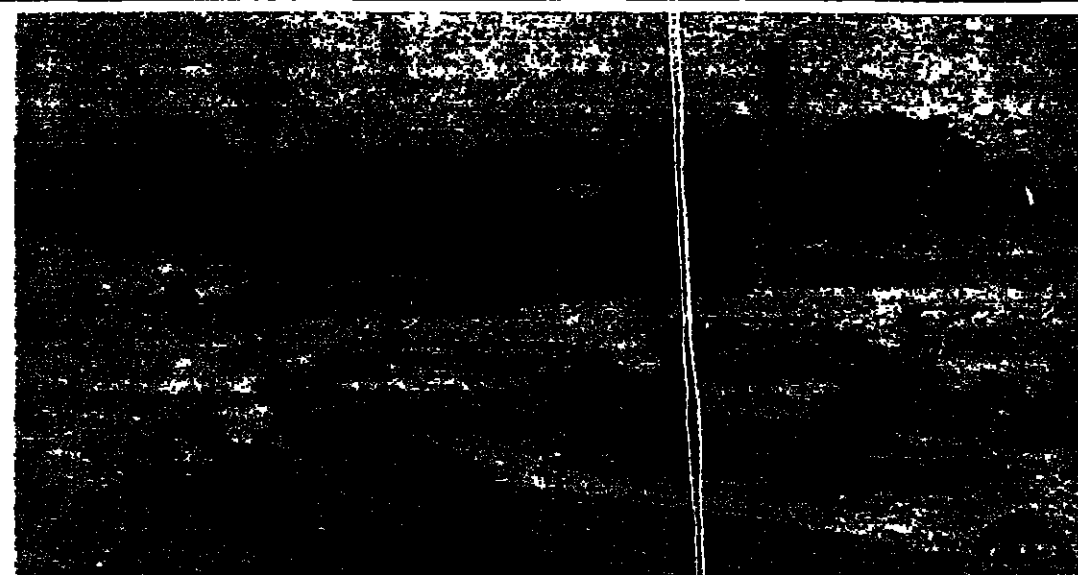
ADN said Honecker was checked by doctors sent by a special parliamentary committee investigating alleged widespread corruption during Honecker's rule.

Seven former Communist Party politburo members have been jailed ending investigation of charges they abused their power and bilked the nation of billions in hard currency.

The 77-year-old Honecker, ousted Oct. 18, is reported to be seriously ailing and confined to bed at the Wandlitz estate where he and other party elite indulged daily in luxuries while the rest of the nation endured spartan living conditions.

He underwent surgery in August to remove gallstones and never fully recovered.

Honecker was placed under house arrest more than a month ago after corruption charges were filed against him.



The Iraqi armed forces stage a parade through Baghdad Saturday to mark Army Day (INA photo)

## Iraq marks Army Day; Iran rejects call

# King, Iraqi leader discuss Arab issues

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday held a round of talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on bilateral relations, the latest developments in the Arab scene and issues related to the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC).

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, which reported the closed meeting, did not give details, but it was believed that the issues discussed covered the Palestinian problem and efforts to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict as well as Iraq's latest offer to revive peace talks with Iran.

The King also met with Saudi Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Aviation Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz.

The discussions dealt with bilateral relations, the situation in the Arab and international arenas, means to attain Arab solidarity, and the need to end all regional disputes in a just manner, Petra said.

The King, who is accompanied by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb, arrived here Friday for talks with President Hussein and to attend ceremonies marking Iraq's Army Day.

The Iraqi ceremonies included a big military parade and display of military hardware, including Iraqi-built missiles, the day after its president urged Iraq to resume stalled peace talks.

The parade underlined President Hussein's policy of building up Iraq's military capabilities until Tehran signs a peace treaty to formally end the Gulf war.

Fighting halted Aug. 20, 1988, when a United Nations-sponsored ceasefire took effect.

The celebrations, marking the 69th anniversary of the founding of the Iraqi army, were held as Iran denounced the proposal announced by Hussein Friday as a "campaign for public deception."

Iran's official Islamic Republic

News Agency reported that the Iranian comments were contained in a memorandum circulated by the Iranian mission at the United Nations in New York Friday.

It said Iraq's call for direct talks between Iranian and Iraqi leaders under U.N. auspices was nothing

more than old proposals "in a new wrapping."

Both sides blame each other for deadlocking the negotiations that began Aug. 25, 1988. The last session was held in April and U.N. efforts to revive the nego-

(Continued on page 3)

## Jordan rallies behind Iraqi peace talks offer

By Nermeen Murad  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan Saturday expressed complete support for an Iraqi proposal to revive stalled peace talks with Iran and described it as a "necessary step to bring back world attention to the Middle Eastern issues."

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Qasem told the Jordan Times that Jordan hoped that Iran would take the opportunity and "reciprocate with the peaceful initiative so that comprehensive peace would reign in the region and regional stability would be ensured."

"The continuation of this no-war no-peace situation between the two countries will increase the dangers which are facing the whole region," Qasem said.

Qasem added that Iran should move towards a comprehensive peaceful solution "which would reinstate (Iran) as an Islamic country which will contribute positively to the liberation of Jerusalem."

The foreign minister also urged Iran to implement in full United Nations Security Council Resolution 598, which was adopted in 1987 and calls for a ceasefire, withdrawal of troops to pre-war borders, the repatriation of prisoners.

Iraq accepted Resolution 598 almost immediately, but it took the Iranians one year, and a series of battlefield defeats, to agree to the resolution. A ceasefire finally took hold on Aug. 20, 1988, but negotiations stalled as soon they got started.

In a nationwide address Friday marking Army Day, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein proposed that a direct dialogue between the Iranian and Iraqi leaderships be held alternately in Baghdad and Tehran under U.N. supervision. He also outlined a series of other related moves to facilitate the process.

"This initiative is not strange for Iraq since it has called for many years for a solution between the two countries built on international legitimacy and neighbourhood manners," Qasem said.

In answer to a question on the timing of the Iraqi proposal in light of the shift of international interest from the Middle East and towards developments in Eastern Europe and South America, Qasem said: "It is necessary that we continue drawing attention to our regional problems by initiating peaceful solutions ourselves." (In a statement released at the United Nations Friday, Iran rejected the Iraqi proposal.)

## PLO beefs up militia buffer force in Lebanon

KFAR HATA, Lebanon (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) sent in more guerrillas Saturday to separate warring Shi'ite militias in South Lebanon, ending fighting in one sector of the front, security sources said.

They said some 200 fighters loyal to PLO leader Yasser Arafat deployed between gunmen of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) and the Syrian-backed Amal militia in the Iqlim Al Tufah area east of Sidon.

The PLO now has 500 heavily armed guerrillas deployed along a three-kilometre front.

Clashes continued in parts of Iqlim Al Tufah where the PLO had not deployed, sources said. "Our forces have separated the fighters... they are ready to pull out as soon as the bloodshed ends," the top PLO official in Lebanon, Zaid Wehbeh, said.

He said Arafat, who ordered the move, was ready to sponsor negotiations between Amal and Hizbollah. "Any other peace force is welcomed to join us," Iranian Deputy Foreign Minis-

ter Ali Mohammad Besharati left Tehran Saturday for Damascus to continue his efforts to end the fighting which erupted two weeks ago.

The Iranian news agency IRNA said Besharati, who made a similar mission to Lebanon and Syria last month, discussed the fighting with supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei before leaving.

The militias have largely ignored repeated Iranian appeals to end the fighting for control of territory north of Israel's self-declared "security zone." At least 74 people have been killed and 270 wounded.

Wehbeh said the PLO was trying to keep the fighting away from the Ain Al Hiweh and Mieh Mieh Palestinian refugee camps, only a few kilometres from the battle zone.

PLO sources said another goal was to stop Hizbollah gaining more ground in the direction of the camps, in case it linked up with anti-Arafat and Palestinian fundamentalist groups there.

Hizbollah, which was captured

five villages from Amal in two weeks, said the PLO action could further complicate the situation and direct it towards a very dangerous course.

After the Palestinian deployment on Saturday, hundreds of people went back to their villages to inspect damage caused by the fierce artillery and rocket battles.

Security sources said PLO forces came under machinegun fire earlier Saturday but no one was hurt and they did not respond. Three PLO guerrillas were shot and wounded Friday.

Amal chief Nabih Berri has rejected attempts to separate the combatants but said his group still backed a peace accord signed with the PLO after three years of Amal-Palestinian fighting.

Hizbollah, which is committed to guerrilla warfare against Israel and its "security zone" was driven from South Lebanon by Amal in April 1988.

A peace agreement, sponsored by Tehran and Damascus, collapsed after Amal refused to allow the militants back into the south.



## U.S. reassures Israel on excluding PLO but withholds guarantees

By Eileen Alt Powell  
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV — The United States says it is not pushing Israel to talk to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) but is unwilling to meet Israel's demand for rigid guarantees in advance of Middle East peace talks, according to a U.S. government letter reported here.

The Hebrew daily Yediot Aharanot, in a front-page story, quoted from a document it said was a draft letter from U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

It quoted Baker as stressing, that U.S. assurances should be "kept from the public eye." Baker had earlier said he would not offer secret guarantees of Israel. Baker has been working to get Israel to accept an Egyptian invitation to open a dialogue with Palestinians as a step towards Israel's plan for elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Last November, the Israeli government accepted a five-point Baker plan to facilitate the Egyptian initiative. But it demanded U.S. "side assurances" that the PLO will have no role and that the dialogue will be limited to Israel's election plan.

Baker has urged that Arens and Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid join him in preliminary talks in Washington.

and Israeli officials say the Washington meeting could come next month.

According to Yediot, the Baker letter said: "The goal of the United States, in the present effort, is not bringing Israel to a dialogue with the PLO."

It continued, however, that the United States was not willing to give assurances on what Palestinians would say at the meeting and that delegates in their opening statements "would be free to raise other issues and not limit themselves to elections."

"These are the assurances that we plan to provide," Yediot quoted the letter as saying. "The president and myself are convinced that these are enough to dispel Israel's worries and allow progress in the process."

The draft letter reportedly was carried to Israel by cabinet secretary Eilatim Rubinstein, who returned from talks with the U.S. State Department shortly before Christmas.

Yediot said that in addition to Arens, the draft letter was given to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Finance Minister Shimon Peres.

Avi Pazner, an adviser to Shamir, said of the newspaper report: "Many things there are not new, many things there are not accurate."

He added: "We are still engaged in a discussion with the

United States on the question of guarantees that the PLO will not be part of the negotiating process. Until we have reached an agreement with the Americans, we would prefer not to relate to all kinds of press speculation."

Yediot said that Rubinstein, in a summary of his talks, told the ministers that "chances for a far-reaching improvement (of the draft) are slim."

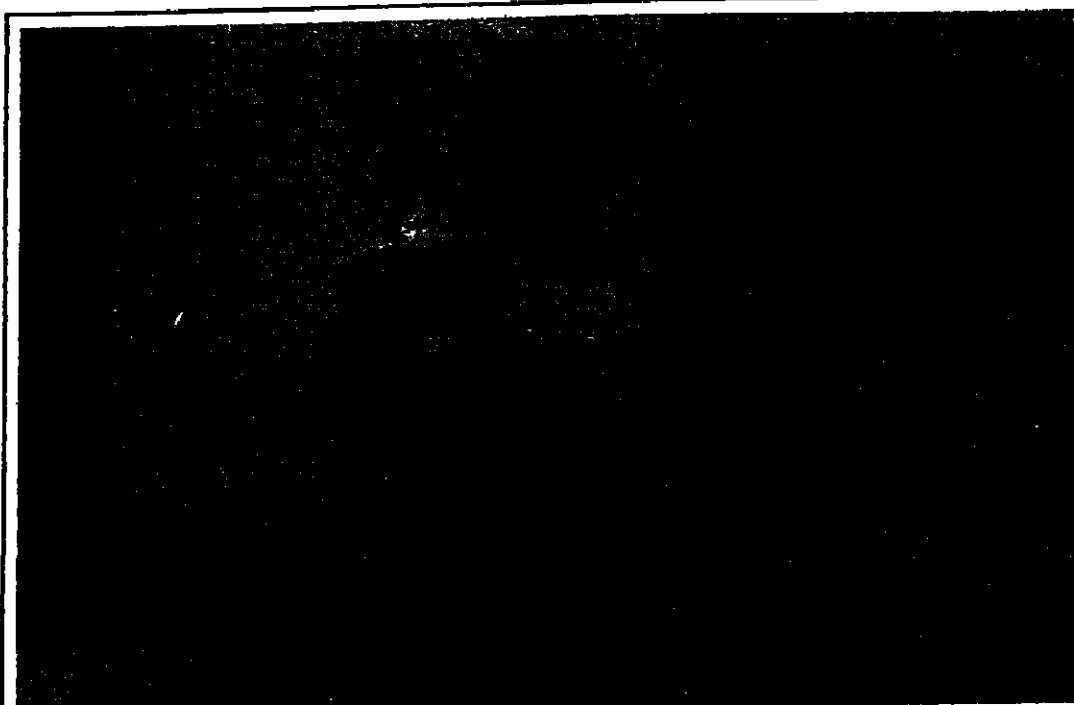
He also advised the cabinet ministers that Baker wants to include two Palestinians expelled from the occupied lands in the delegation for the Cairo meeting, despite Israel's demand that the delegates must come from the occupied lands.

Egypt has suggested that including people expelled from the occupied territories would make the talks more acceptable to the PLO, which has demanded it name the Palestinian delegates.

In an interview on Israel Radio Friday, Yossi Ben-Aharon, director-general of the prime minister's office, indicated that Israel was holding firm to its earlier conditions.

"It will have to be understood by all parties that Israel will discuss nothing but the election modalities," Ben-Aharon said.

He noted that the cabinet earlier rejected the idea of participation by Palestinians from outside the West Bank and Gaza Strip saying "they cannot be outsiders" and "they cannot be Arabs from Jerusalem, which part of Israel."



YOUNG FURY: A Palestinian youngster poised to throw stones at Israeli troops in the occupied West Bank.

## Qadhafi cautions E Europe against Western-style system

TRIPOLI (AP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi Friday cautioned Romania and Eastern Europe against adopting Western-style democracy, a move he claimed would lead to an economic crisis and war.

He also urged Jews to "counter-migrate" from Israel, pledging that Libya and other Arab countries would welcome them back and treat them as their own nationals.

At a news conference in a concrete structure shaped like a tent and lined with colorful canvases, Qadhafi said "I would like to address an important part of the world, especially Eastern Europe, and an oppressed group in this world, that is the Jewish community."

Referring to developments in Eastern Europe, Qadhafi said: "There is no place for capitalism, which is dictatorship based on exploitation of basic human rights which are completely crushed in Western Europe and the United States."

"If you (Eastern Europe) transfer (adopt) Western European system with its multi-parties and capitalism, I warn you of unemployment and beggary, of inflation, crises and in the end, war."

Wearing a dark suit under a flowing brown cape, Qadhafi sat at a chair with a low table in front of him and a vase full of flowers and a globe at his side.

Reporters soon swarmed around him as he took questions, and at one point he waved a green handkerchief he had been holding to call for order.

"Eastern Europe must adopt the new socialism calling for 'partners not wage-earners', parties destroy the causes of democra-

cy and revolution, the future reality will be the jamahiriya" he said expounding from theories published in his "Third Universal Theory," otherwise known as his Green Book.

Written and published in the mid-1970s, the Green Book calls for a new economic and political system to replace capitalism and communism in a jamahiriya, or masses, in which the people represent themselves without parties or parliament.

"The other thing is the question of Jews. Despite the fact that I am an Arab, and I know Arabs are targets of Zionism, I admit the Jews are oppressed in the world."

"This is a crime committed by Europe and the rest of the world, with the exception of the Arabs, at least of Libya which would welcome them back."

Speaking calmly, Qadhafi accused Europe and the United States of plotting to rid the world of Jews by lacing them in "Palestine, the tomb of Jews, the mass over for Jews. They (Jews) must leave the oven before it gets too hot."

He repeated suggestions he had made earlier for sending Jews to either Alsace-Lorraine on the border between France and Germany, or to Alaska.

Asked whether a fund should be founded to repatriate Jews from Israel, he said they did not need money, but urged Arab countries and others to "lift their oppression against them."

About 100 Arab and foreign journalists invited to Qadhafi's news conference were told a remain in their hotel during the day and were shuttled Friday evening to Bab Aziziya, the Libyan leader's headquarters on the outskirts of the capital, Tripoli.

There was no hint as to the content of his news conference which some reporters believed would be addressed to the revolution in Romania and allegations of Libyans fighting alongside security forces loyal to ousted dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

However, Qadhafi made no reference to the allegations, nor to the fact that Friday was a day past the first anniversary of the downing of the two Libyan MiG-23 airplanes by the United States navy near Libyan shores.

The United States said at the time that it had acted in self-defence.

After about an hour of speech, Qadhafi took questions from the reporters and the session turned almost informal.

There were none of his usual female bodyguards, only a few men watching the photographers and journalists closing in on the Libyan leader who joined in trying to maintain quiet by waving his handkerchief shushing down the volleys of questions.

Asked about Western economic sanctions against Libya, Qadhafi said: "We are not interested in the European siege. The companies working here need Libyan money, they need Libyan oil."

"We put our conditions, not they, if they don't like them, they can go to hell."

He said however that no progress has been made towards a settlement with American oil companies that suspended operations Libya.

"There is no progress. We are ready to talk but there is nothing new," he said.

## Harari denies being Noriega aide

TEL AVIV (AP) — Mike Harari, identified by U.S. officials as a top aide to Panama's deposed leader Manuel Antonio Noriega, has denied that he has served as security adviser to the dictator.

The former Israeli spy master also denied he has been detained by U.S. troops in Panama during the American invasion.

Harari's arrest by U.S. troops was announced on Dec. 28, and an American diplomat in Panama described him as a security adviser to Noriega and an instructor to the Panamanian Defence forces.

"As you can see, I'm here. I did not arrive (disguised) as a blonde girl and did not come in a suitcase. My name is Mike Harari, Michael Harari," he said in a taped interview recorded in an Israel television studio and broadcast Friday night.

The television did not say when the interview was filmed, but it first reported that Harari was in the country on Dec. 30. It was an extremely rare appearance by Harari and the first since the invasion of Panama by U.S. troops.

"I was not hiding and was not imprisoned by the Americans on any occasion. I was in Panama when the war started and I avoided it without any help, by my own means...and as you can see I'm here, in my country, at home, among my family and friends," Harari said.

He referred to Israeli media reports which said that the Israeli embassy in Panama was involved in arranging his escape.

"Even before I came to Israel,

on the way, I saw all the system of disinformation about me: that I was detained, that there were talks about me, that I was being transferred and released," Harari said.

Apart from U.S. officials, foreign and Israeli media reports have widely identified Harari as Noriega's personal security chief. Israeli reports said he had considerable influence in Panama and was once appointed by Noriega as Panama's honorary consul in Israel.

But Harari insisted this was "only disinformation that proves what has happened in the last three years."

"What haven't they said about me?...in which way haven't they smeared me? They said I was Noriega's adviser."

On the way, I saw all the system of disinformation about me: that I was detained, that there were talks about me, that I was being transferred and released," Harari said.

Apart from U.S. officials, foreign and Israeli media reports have widely identified Harari as Noriega's personal security chief. Israeli reports said he had considerable influence in Panama and was once appointed by Noriega as Panama's honorary consul in Israel.

But Harari insisted this was "only disinformation that proves what has happened in the last three years."

"What haven't they said about me?...in which way haven't they smeared me? They said I was Noriega's adviser."

## Second Polish ship attacked in Red Sea

NICOSIA (R) — A second Polish ship has been attacked in the Red Sea off Ethiopia and 30 crew of another are missing after their vessel was apparently hit by rockets and set on fire, shipping sources said Saturday.

The motor vessel Adam Asnyk reported it was fired on from shore Friday after finding the 9,146-tonne cargo ship Boleslaw Krzywousty stranded and ablaze 80 kilometres from Massawa on the Eritrean coast, Lloyds shipping intelligence said.

A shipping source in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, said the Boleslaw Krzywousty's captain had radioed that his ship had been attacked and run aground. An unidentified vessel was trying to rescue the crew.

"The Boleslaw Krzywousty is on fire and aground after being attacked by an unknown ship," the source said.

Lloyds said the Adam Asnyk reported that all 30 crew and two lifeboats were missing from the Boleslaw Krzywousty, which the Polish Foreign Ministry said was attacked on Thursday by an unidentified armed vessel.

The 9,362-tonne Adam Asnyk said it approached within two kilometres of the stranded Polish ship but withdrew when it came under fire from the shore. It did

not identify the attackers. Eritrean rebels seeking independence clash frequently with Ethiopian government troops in the region. Last September, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front said its fighters had destroyed three government warships in Massawa naval base in a series of raids.

The rebels said they used speedboats to carry out their attacks.

The Boleslaw Krzywousty was heading for Massawa from Sudan when it was attacked last Wednesday. Gulf shipping sources said the captain put out a Mayday message saying he needed help.

The Polish embassy in Addis Ababa said Thursday the Boleslaw Krzywousty was attacked by an armed vessel in Ethiopian waters off Eritrea but that none of the crew was hurt. It gave no other details.

Lloyd's gave the Boleslaw Krzywousty's position as about 80 kilometres north of Massawa, while the source in Jeddah said it was 80 kilometres southeast of the port.

Poland said Thursday that the Boleslaw Krzywousty was attacked in Ethiopian territorial waters 480 kilometres north of Massawa.

### MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

#### French diplomats to return to Kabul

PARIS (R) — France has decided to send diplomats back to the Afghan capital Kabul almost a year after it closed its embassy there, a French diplomatic source said. "A decision in principle has been taken but the date has not been fixed," the source said. He described the move as "purely technical," and said it would involve a change of affairs and several other diplomats. He said the presence of French nationals in humanitarian organisations in Afghanistan meant it was desirable to have someone there to give them diplomatic protection. France, together with other Western countries and Japan, followed a U.S. walkout from Afghanistan last year, citing security fears after the withdrawal of the last Soviet troops in February. When France pulled out its diplomats, it said they would return "as soon as circumstances permit."

#### Israelis to be allowed to visit Yemen

TEL AVIV (R) — Israelis of Yemenite origin may soon be allowed to visit relatives in North Yemen, an Israeli newspaper reported Friday. The mass-circulation Yediot Aharanot said leaders of the Yemenite Jewish community had received a message from North Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Iryani saying he would consider positively requests to visit relatives. Israeli officials were not available for comment. North Yemen has no relations with Israel. But the newspaper said it had decided to follow the example of Morocco, which allows Israelis of Moroccan origin to visit their homeland. Several hundred Jews remain in North Yemen. Some 43,000 of Yemen's 45,000 Jews move to Israel in 1949 and 1950 in an airlift.

#### Naccache serious after hunger strike

PARIS (AP) — Anis Naccache, a prisoner who claims France promised to release him during the 1988 negotiations that won freedom for his hostages from Lebanon, is in alarming condition after almost four months on hunger strike, his lawyer said Friday. Jacques Verges said on French television after a visit to his client in Fresnes prison outside Paris that Naccache has lost 27 kilograms and was being fed intravenously, "thus it's an alarming state." Naccache, a pro-Iranian Lebanese, is serving a life sentence for the attempted assassination of Shapur Bakhtiar in 1980, apparently on orders from Iran. Bakhtiar survived, but two other people were killed. Iran has called publicly for Naccache's release, while denying it was part of France's deal to win the release of its hostages from their pro-Iranian Lebanese captors. France says there was a deal with Iran, but that it did not include Naccache. President Francois Mitterrand, speaking with reporters Friday evening, said he might consider freeing Naccache, but not under the pressure of a hunger strike.

#### Sudan rebels claim major victory

CAIRO (AP) — The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) claimed Friday it had scored a major victory over government troops in western Equatoria by defeating an army brigade of over 3,000 soldiers. An SPLA radio broadcast monitored in London, said the victory climaxed six days of fighting in south Sudan. It said the government brigade was dispersed Thursday near the border of Uganda and that its commander, Isiah Paul, fled towards the neighbouring country. The rebels forces are now conducting pursuit and mopping up operations, it said. No casualties were reported. "With the destruction of this force, the junta's backbone in western equatoria has been effectively destroyed," the radio said, referring to the 15-man junta that seized power in Sudan in a military coup June 30. It said the brigade was the same force that entered Uganda on Dec. 29 and overran the border town of Oraba.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran  
15:40 Programme review  
15:50 Children programme  
16:00 News in Arabic  
16:10 News in Hebrew  
16:20 Local programme  
16:30 Cultural programme  
16:40 Local programme  
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PROGRAMME TWO

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PRAYER TIMES

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### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifich, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Soie Church Tel. 661757

Terranova Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 632541

Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 685326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 685326

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 644932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy with chances

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:

Dr. Wa'el Kharrabi 669917

Dr. Adnan Dsi 626060

Dr. Tawfiq Oubayn 626029

Dr. Mahmoud Shleik 669912

Redwood pharmacy 670035

Al Asana pharmacy 670035

Nairooth pharmacy 670035

Al Salama pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Scattered showers. Winds will be southerly moderate. In Agaba, it will also be partly cloudy with chances of scattered showers. Winds will be southerly moderate and calm seas.

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 11, Agaba 20. Humidity readings: Amman 65 per cent, Agaba 30 per cent.

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifich, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Soie Church Tel. 661757

### JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifich, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

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Church of the Annunciation Tel. 632541

Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

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Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 685326

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 644932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy with chances

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 Frankfurt (add.) (RJ)

07:10 Kuwait (RJ)

07:20 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

07:30 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

07:40 Jeddah, Agaba (RJ)

07:50 Vienna (add.) (RJ)

08:00 Paris (RJ)

08:10 Chicago, Vienna (RJ)

08:20 Cairo (RJ)

08:30 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)

08:40 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)

08:50 Damascus, Paris (AF)

09:00 Damascus, Paris (AF)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:25 Dubai (AZ)

08:35 Cairo (MS)

08:45 Kuwait (KU)



## 'National' bloc of 23 crystallises in Lower House

By Mariam M. Shaban  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Members of the "national bloc" in the Lower House of Parliament said Saturday that the main goal of the 23-member parliamentary coalition was "to ensure the success and endorsement of the democratic experiment in Jordan."

The bloc, which, according to several of its members, has been meeting in small groups for the past three weeks, is a faction of 23 deputies who have "no common ideological or political line."

"But, we all want the democratic experiment to succeed and that was why we gave a vote of confidence to the government of Mudar Badran," said Ajloun Deputy Issa Rimoni, one of the bloc's members. "Despite the reservations many of the bloc's members voiced, we, the national bloc, had agreed that we would vote as a coalition in favour of the government," he added.

Rimoni said that although the bloc gave its vote of confidence to the government, it reserved the right to withdraw confidence from any single member of the Cabinet "if we find the need to do so."

Despite the apparent hesitation of two of the bloc's spokesmen, deputies Abdullah Nsour and Mohammad Abu Alim, to announce the bloc's formation and its platform, its existence and its activities seem to have become de facto if not de jure.

Nsour, who has been named by Arabic dailies as the bloc's spokesman, declined again Saturday to make statements concerning the bloc's "parliamentary strategies" or confirm its membership list. "We will hold a press conference soon and reveal all there is to know about the bloc," Nsour told the Jordan Times.

Speaking during the Lower House's discussion last week on the government programme, Nsour said that the national bloc had made its comments on its desired policy changes through the speeches made by its members. He failed to say, however, who the members were.

However, other reported members of the bloc were willing to reveal more about the coalition's activities and membership after Saturday's Parliament session.

Rimoni told the Jordan Times that the coalition had agreed 1) to give a vote of confidence to the government, and 2) made consultations with the Muslim Brotherhood to "ensure the places of several national bloc members on the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) affairs committee," which was elected by the Lower House Saturday.

Five members of the national bloc and three members of the Muslim Brotherhood were elected to the 10-member committee. The other two belonged to the independent bloc and the democratic bloc respectively.

Another member of the national bloc who asked not to be named said that the coalition had held consultations and coordinated "moves" with other parliamentary blocs on a number of issues proposed to the legislature.

The bloc would be the fourth coalition formed in the 80-member assembly and would seem to be competing for strength of size — if not ideological conviction — with the largest bloc, the 24-member Muslim Brotherhood.

Members of the democratic and independent coalitions both conceded that they had made "indirect gestures to members of other blocs to get one of our people in on the ACC affairs committee." While the actual importance of the ACC committee remains to be seen, the voting cooperation among the blocs could be significant in future voting patterns on other issues.

Furthermore, the alleged "bloc voting" procedure that took place Saturday could have serious consequences for those deputies who have not "aligned" themselves with any bloc.

Three independent deputies who were nominated for the ACC committee Saturday failed to win a seat on the committee. The total number of nominations for the 10 seats was 13.

Although many of their comments touched upon similar issues, not all of the 23 deputies believed to be members of the "national bloc" seemed to be in agreement on the issue of the national charter, which, according to Deputy Taher Al Masri, "will overshadow the Constitution" and is "not necessary."

"We all have different opinions on certain issues and we certainly don't all agree with Deputy Masri on this issue, but in the end we will tend to vote as a bloc," said Rimoni referring to the charter issue.

Asked to confirm their membership in the bloc, Masri and several others said, "I guess so" after confirming that they had attended the bloc meetings.

Deputy Abu Alim said he was one of the four spokesmen for the national bloc, along with Nsour, Jamal Haddad and Hisham Sharara. He gave the names of 22 of the 23 members. They are as follows: Abdullah Nsour, Issa Rimoni, Nayef Haddid, Mohammad Abu Alim, Taher Al Masri, Abdullah Zreikat, Ata Shahwan, Saad Haddadin, Samir Kassar, Nayef Abu Tayyeh, Jamal Haddad, Faisal Ben Jazi, Mohammad Murar, Jamal Khreisha, Sultan Adwan, Hisham Sharara, Saad Sour, Salameh Ghweini, Nawaf Khawaldeh, Mohammad Dardour, Ziad Schweich and Ahmad Annab.

The Muslim Brotherhood has a confirmed membership of 24 deputies. Dr. Abdul Latif Arabiya is its spokesman. The democratic bloc has 11 confirmed members. Deputy Fakhr Kassar is its spokesman. The independent bloc has eight members. No-one has been announced its official spokesman.

All blocs have stated that they are open to all parliamentarians if they wish to join.

The following are the members of the ACC Parliamentary Committee: Mohammad Dardour, Ata Al Shahwan, Ziyad Al Shweikh, Samir Qu'war, Metair Al Bustanji, Hammam Sa'id, Ibrahim Khreisa, Mohammad Fares Al Tarawneh, Dr. Mohammad Abu Fares and Issa Rimoni.

## National carrier offers free Amman stop-over

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian (RJ) has launched a special stop-over package for its First and Business class passengers who are transiting via Amman. The programme, which runs until Dec. 31, 1990, was developed in the with Royal Jordanian's efforts to promote Jordan as a business centre and a tourist attraction, an RJ press release said.

In cooperation with the Amman Marriott Hotel, the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel, and

Royal Tours, Royal Jordanian will extend to its First and Business class travellers a two-night stay free of charge at any one of the two hotels mentioned. In addition, and for a minimum fee, an optional package of services was prepared. With this plan, eligible passengers will be met at Queen Alia International Airport and transferred to/from their hotel. They can also enjoy an excursion tour to the ancient city of Jerash — The Pompeii of the Middle East.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

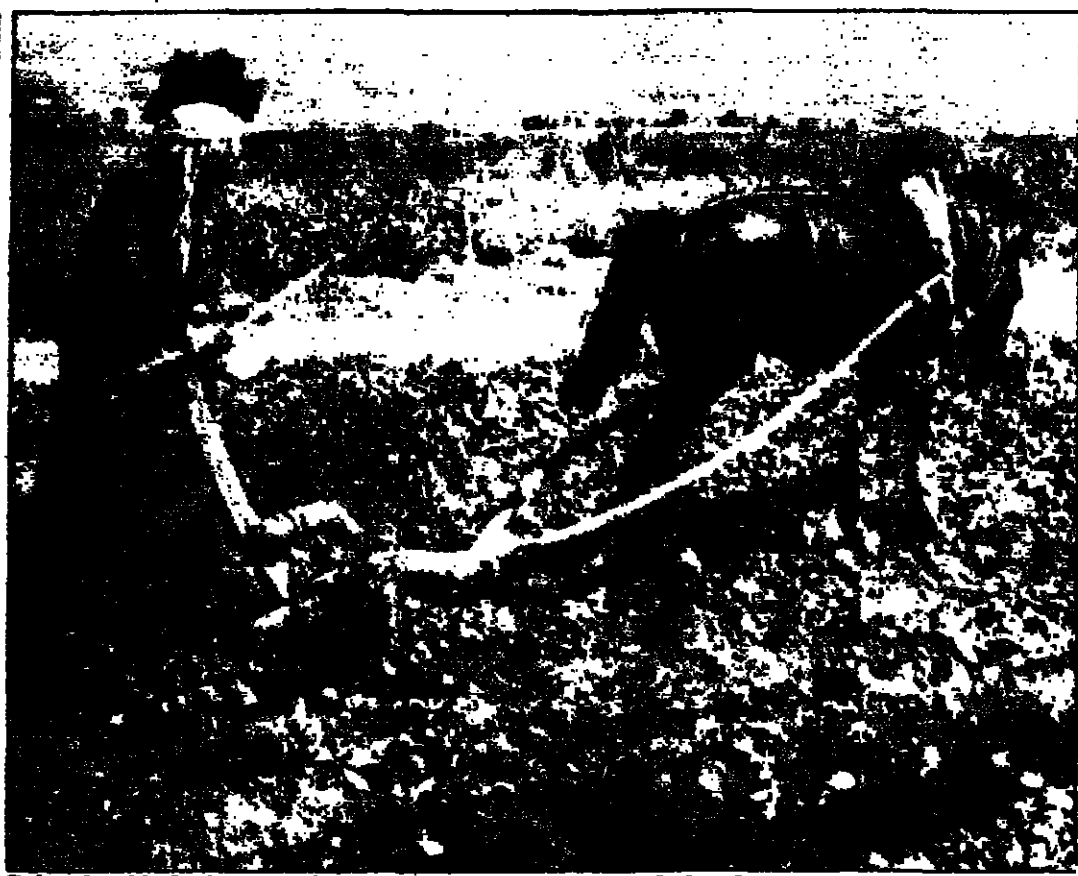
The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition entitled "They chose 30 poets" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition by Irish artist Conal McIntyre at the British Council.

### FILMS

- ★ A Czech film entitled "The Saky Sweets" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.
- ★ A feature film entitled "It Came Upon Midnight Clear" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.



Rains that hit Jordan over the past three days, though delayed, have saved the Kingdom's 1990 agricultural season, according to officials (File photo)

## Rains save Jordan's agricultural season

AMMAN (J.T.) — The latest rains that fell in Jordan helped the Kingdom accumulate millions of cubic metres of water in reservoirs built to collect water for irrigation in the Jordan Valley region, and saved the country's agricultural season, Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Secretary General Mohammad Bani Hani said Saturday.

Altogether the dams, built in a number of locations, mostly in the northern and central regions, collected nearly 35.8 million cubic metres of water so far, Bani Hani noted in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The recent rains prompted JVA stations to stop pumping water for irrigation in the Jordan Valley, which also received sufficient amounts of rain water. JVA stations used to pump water from the reservoirs to water citrus trees in the valley in the absence of the rain, Bani Hani explained.

Bani Hani said about 2.4 million cubic metres of water flowed over the past few days into the



The King Talal Dam reservoir

reservoir behind the King Talal Dam, raising its present storage to 23.5 million. He said the rain fall supplied 1.2 million cubic metres of water to Wadi Al Arab reservoir raising the level to 7.8 million cubic metres; 266,000 cubic metres flowed into Shabab Dam to raise its reservoirs to 1.6 million; Wadi Shaub received 900,000 cubic metres, raising its

reservoirs to 1.2 million, and Kfrain Dam received one million cubic metres, raising the present level to 1.7 million cubic metres.

According to Bani Hani, JVA has now started pumping water for domestic use at the rate of 1.4 cubic metres per second from Deir Alla in the Jordan Valley to population centres in the Amman region.

## Preparations begin for ACC ministerial meeting on housing

AMMAN (J.T.) — A special follow-up committee opened a two-day meeting here Saturday to prepare for a conference of the ministers of housing and reconstruction of the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) which will be held in Amman Wednesday.

The committee will study reports by four technical teams on matters related to housing and construction affairs in the four ACC countries and will prepare the agenda for the ministerial conference, according to Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh, who opened Saturday's meeting.

Rawabdeh said the follow-up committee would draft a joint

report on matters related to housing in the four countries before presenting the final version to the ministers.

One of the four technical teams met in Sanaa last month and discussed the question of unifying laws and legislations on housing and reconstruction in the ACC states. The second met in Cairo to work out unified specifications and standards for construction work and building materials. The third, which met in Baghdad, discussed principles for classifying contractors and consultancy firms while the fourth technical team met in Amman to discuss cooperation among consultancy and engineering firms operating

in the ACC countries.

Housing Corporation Director Yousef Hiyasat, who leads Jordan's delegation to the follow-up committee meeting, said that the attention would focus on a joint report incorporating the reports of the four technical teams and on projecting new ideas that can help the four countries carry out housing and public works projects.

Muhieddin Al Najjar, who leads the Egyptian team, said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the technical teams had covered questions related to workers employed on construction projects in the ACC countries, training issues and contracting.

## Major tree-planting event on Arbor Day

AMMAN (J.T.) — Arbor Day celebrations will be held in Jordan Jan. 15 with the main event to be held at Jizah near Queen Alia International Airport on the desert highway leading to Aqaba. The Jizah ceremony will be held under royal patronage and is part of a series of tree planting events which will be staged in various regions under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture, which grows the tree saplings at its various nurseries. Municipalities and various government departments will also take active part in the events, according to Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabiyat.

Attention will be focused this year on the Amman-Aqaba desert highway with the purpose of stemming desertification and protecting agricultural land and beautifying the country, the minister said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Earlier, the ministries of education and agriculture announced plans involving thousands of schoolchildren to "green" the country, and programmes in this respect entailed planting nearly two million trees in the current agricultural season.

Ministry of Agriculture officials said that the two millionth tree will be planted by His Majesty King Hussein Jan. 15.

The director of the Ministry of Agriculture's Afforestation and Soil Preservation Department, Ghaleb Abu Arrabi, said in a

statement to Petra that five rows of forest trees would be planted along each side of the whole 300-kilometre highway to help stem the encroachment of desert on arable land, to conserve underground water and to stop soil erosion.

This season, only a 30-kilometre stretch of the road will be dealt with, but the whole length of the road will be completed in the coming years, Abu Arrabi said.

He said areas extending for a total of 50 kilometres of highway had been planted with five rows of trees along each side in the past months in cooperation with the governorates of Tafleh, Karak and Maan, all of which lie along the desert highway.

The Ministry of Education said that at least 200,000 male and female students would be involved in the JD 100,000 project and the cost would be covered by school budgets. According to officials, the Ministry of Agriculture will provide the saplings and the Ministry of Education will undertake to transport students to and from the tree-planting sites.

The Ministry of Agriculture's nurseries annually produce millions of fruit and forest tree saplings which are normally distributed to schools and various organisations, farmers and other individuals free of charge or for a nominal cost.

## House urges Syria to release Jordanians

By Nermeen Murad  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Saturday unanimously called for the release of Jordanian prisoners held in Syrian prisons since 1971 and decided to send a telegram to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad demanding freedom for the detainees.

Although the exact number of Jordanians held in Syria has not been publicly announced, Deputy Issa Madanat said five of the detainees "were responsible leaders in the Baathist and Syrian Saika parties," and were imprisoned by the Damascus government in 1971.

Rival wings of the Arab Baath Socialist Party rule Syria and Iraq, and this rivalry continues to cloud Damascus-Baghdad relations.

Though Madanat did not name the five detainees, family sources named them as Hakem Al Fayez, Thafi Mousa Al Jamaani, Mujalli Nasraween, Hassan Al Khanib and Yousef Jumaa Al Barji. The exact dates of their imprisonment were not immediately available, though they are all believed to have bailed at supporting Assad when he assumed power in 1971.

Lbri Deputy Mohammad Al Alawneh, who proposed the call to Syria, told the Jordan Times that although the issue of the prisoners "is not new... the new democratic situation in Jordan calls for their participation in its development in the Kingdom."

Alawneh said he did not have the exact number of detainees held in Syria but added the name of Mohammad Ibrahim Ahmad Rabaa, who, he said, has been held without trial in Syria since September 1987.

"This issue does not touch on political differences in particular but all Jordanians who are being held in Syria," Alawneh

said. Alawneh is a member of the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood, whose Syrian branch was crushed by Assad's forces during bloody fighting in the city of Hama in February 1982.

### 'Release Hamas leader'

The Lower House Saturday also approved a proposal by deputies Ahmad Abu Faris and Laith Shbeilat to send a Lower House statement to the U.N. Human Rights Organisation condemning Israel's "inhuman" treatment of Sheikh Ahmad Yassin currently on trial in the occupied Gaza Strip along with a number of his supporters facing a series of charges, including the killing of two Israeli soldiers.

The sheikh, who has also been charged with the leadership of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas (Zeal), the strongest Palestinian group in the Gaza Strip, is paralysed from the neck down and has been treated for injuries suffered during what was reported as torture during interrogation by Israeli security forces.

"There have been demonstrations in the occupied territories condemning the torture of the sheikh," said Abu Faris. "I suggest that a telegram be sent to the human rights organisation asking for his immediate release."

Amman Deputy Laith Shbeilat adopted Abu Faris' suggestion and added that a statement in the name of the House should be sent to the human rights organisation rather than just a telegram.

"Abu Farhan's (Shbeilat) proposal complements mine and a statement will be sent in the name of the Lower House of Parliament as a legislative body and representatives of the people," Abu Faris told the Jordan Times.

### Israeli shooting condemned

Zarqa Deputy Bassam Haddadin condemned Israeli shooting across the Jordanian borders Friday and described them as Israeli attempts to create havoc in the Kingdom "and aimed at discrediting Jordanian democratic moves."

"There have been two cases of Israeli harassment across the (ceasefire line), and in my opinion they are not isolated from the Israeli disapproval of the democratic reform in the Kingdom," Haddadin told the Jordan Times.

According to Haddadin, Israel is interested in creating a state of tension across the ceasefire line out of which "will grow a feeling among Jordanians in the Kingdom that martial law is necessary."

"We must understand that the democratic moves in Jordan will only add to our power and I am sure that our Jordanian army will be able to defend democracy in the Kingdom," Haddadin said.

Israel claimed that there were at least five shooting incidents on the demarcation line in the past week and that the alleged firings came from the Jordanian side of the border. Jordan has totally dismissed the claims and said that the firings were directed at the Jordanian side of the demarcation line from the Israeli side.

Jerash Deputy Issa Rimouri called upon the house to send a telegram of congratulations to Iraq's leader Saddam Hussein congratulating him on the country's military achievements.

The proposal was voted on by 80-member Chamber of Deputies and gained a 35-vote majority, excluding the 24 Muslim Brotherhood deputies who abstained. The 35 votes were considered a majority in light of the absence of some deputies from the session.

## JUST helps Ramtha municipal projects

RAMTHA (Petra) — Ramtha Municipality is maintaining cooperation with the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), which is located within Ramtha District, to carry out various development projects.

Ramtha Mayor Fawaz Al Zoubi said in a statement Saturday. He said that JUST's expertise was being incorporated with the municipality's skills and funds to implement the projects in the district.

Reporting on the municipality's work in the past year, Zoubi said that JUST had helped planning and setting up the 25-dunum Silver Jubilee Public Garden in Ramtha and took part in constructing walls around the garden.

Ramtha Municipality last year completed the second phase of the industrial and handicrafts zone which cost JD 115,000, according to Zoubi. The zone contains 36 stores and workshops for craftsmen who will be moved there from inside the city of Ramtha, he said. The municipality's other accomplishments in the past year included: a sports stadium complete with basic services at the cost of JD 50,000, a ring road around Ramtha to give facilities for trucks, and providing the pilgrims' camp with essential services.

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## Budget

(Continued from page 1)

which is likely to follow higher taxation."

Summarising the structural adjustment programme adopted by the government of Zaid Rifai, who resigned in April after popular protests against price hikes warranted by the programme, and implemented by the government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and continued by the present government of Mudar Badran, Jaradeh said the economic blueprint aims at halting the deterioration of the national economy and achieving a measure of stability and growth, restoring confidence in the economy, providing job opportunities and enhancing the productive base of the Kingdom.

The structural adjustment programme, which is expected to continue until 1993 as a national programme, has yet to address problems of inflation, unemployment and recession. Debt service payments had reached \$963 million in 1988, about 25 per cent of the GDP.

The finance minister dedicated three pages in his budget speech to review economic and financial deterioration over the past several years and traced the circumstances which led to the situation which faces the Kingdom today.

The lower house will not begin full debate on the budget until it receives suggestions, observations and recommendations from its 20-member financial committee. Normally, the house has to reply in about two weeks, but no date has been set for a full house debate on the budget.

ations have founded.

Baghdad was filled with Iraqi flags fluttering under a cloudy winter sky as hundreds of thousands of people lined the capital's main thoroughfares to watch the first army parade in more than a decade.

People carried banners lauding the army as the "maker of victory over Iran."

King Hussein, President Hussein and other notables watched the four-hour-long parade snake by from a balcony in Baghdad's main square.

The celebrations were attended by senior army officers from Arab and other countries. Many sent their defence ministers or army commanders.

President Hussein took the salute from the parade commander riding a white stallion at the head of thousands of troops representing most of the army's units, including the elite Presidential Guards.

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## Jordan Times

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Chairman of the Board of Directors:  
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Editor-in-Chief:  
DR. WALEED M. SADI

Editorial and advertising offices:  
Jordan Press Foundation,  
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366

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## Peace is a mirage

THERE ARE several indicators that Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is tightening the noose around the "peace process" and by all counts the process is now all but dead. Among the principal signs that the peace process has in fact reached a dead-end are the following: The return of Shamir's emissary Elyakim Rubinstein from Washington empty handed on arrangements for the projected meeting between the foreign ministers of Egypt and Israel with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker; the Ezer Weizman crisis over his alleged contacts with the PLO; and the most recent travel restriction imposed on prominent Palestinian from leaving the West Bank. All these negative developments came on the heels of the disclosure by Amnesty International that Shamir's government has been condoning and encouraging the killing of unarmed Palestinians in the occupied territories in order to strangle their intifada.

Under the prevailing circumstances the Palestinian people and the rest of the Arab World are entitled to a more straight talk about the prospects for peace in the Middle East. It is high time that the PLO and the Arab capitals declare out in the open that as long as Shamir is the Israeli leader who pulls the strings in Israel, the prospects for the resolution of the Palestinian conflict and the broader Arab-Israeli conflicts are nil. It would also help if Washington makes such an open secret more exposed so that the whole world would hear it better and take note of it. At least the Arab side would then be able to take stock of their options and act accordingly. But to continue to act as if peace is around the corner is, to say the least, deceiving the Arabs, be they the Palestinians, Jordanians, Syrians or others. It is therefore high time to call a spade a spade and start facing the facts as harsh and difficult as they might be. Otherwise the continuous talk about the mirage peace process as if it is real would only serve as some kind of opium to drug the Arab peoples into believing that the peaceful resolution of their conflicts with Israel is reachable. It would be such a relief to know and realise that peace with Israel is unattainable under the prevailing Arab and international circumstances, not to mention the Israeli circumstances, that the Arab vision about the future can then become that much more coherent and clear. There is no sense in continuing to harbour false illusions about striking a deal with Israel when there is none. The Arab peoples are entitled to be told the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth and after twenty two years of fruitless efforts now is the time for the parties to be more candid with one another.

### ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Saturday tackled the celebrations of the Iraqi Armed Forces to mark their anniversary and said the anniversary this year follows a great victory for Iraq in the Gulf war in defence of Arab soil. The paper said the Arab masses take deep pride in the Iraqi Armed Forces for their courage and their sacrifice over the past years to repel Iranian aggression and to protect Arab land. King Hussein's visit to Baghdad to share with the Iraqi people their celebrations is a manifestation of Jordan's support for the Iraqi brothers and a show of solidarity in their continued determination to protect Arab soil, the paper noted. It said that Jordan has been a staunch supporter of Iraq's endeavours to repel aggression and is now sharing with the Iraqi people their anniversary. Indeed Jordan has been calling for a unity of Arab ranks and solidarity with Iraq and is a staunch believer in intrinsic Arab force that could deter any aggression directed against any Arab country, the paper said. The strength of the Iraqi Armed Forces is a source of pride for all of us because it is a strength for all Arabs and is a guarantee for the future, the paper added. It said that Jordan's endeavours to initiate the Arab Cooperation Council which groups Iraq along with Egypt, North Yemen and Jordan is another indication of the Kingdom's efforts to fulfil the aspirations of Arab people for unity.

A guest columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday expresses belief that Israel will find it difficult to pull out from any part of the occupied Arab lands in three years from now in view of the great flow of Jewish immigrants converging on it from Eastern Europe, Russia and Ethiopia. Sabhi Fahmawi says that backed by the United States militarily, economically and diplomatically, Israel is in a strong position to disregard the ideas of other nations for peace and to mock the international community's condemnation for its atrocities in occupied Palestine. The writer recalls former President Jimmy Carter during his visit to Israel in 1979 when he said that Israel has a unique relationship with the United States deeply rooted in American people's beliefs and religion. The writer says that the United States will continue to provide assistance to the Jewish state regardless of its criminal actions and its violation of all human principles and international laws. Washington's craving for imposing its will and its domination on the Middle East with the help of Israel is now being boosted thanks to the collapse of Communism and the very favourable relations between East and West, says Fahmawi. He believes that time is on Israel's side as long as the Arabs lack the power to impose their will.

Al Dustour daily said Saturday that King Hussein's personal participation in Iraqi Armed Forces day anniversary celebration is a clear demonstration of Jordan's true solidarity with the Iraqi people. Jordan was firm in its support for Iraq during the eight year war with Iran and had been involved in mobilising Arab countries efforts and solidarity with the Iraqi people in their efforts to repel Iranian aggression. Iraq has served as a shield providing protection to the Arab nation and the Arabs take pride in the Iraqi Armed Forces endeavours during the war and in peace time when Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein extends a hand of peace to the Iranian nation, said the paper. It said that Saddam Hussein's new peace bid offered to Iran reflected the Arab nation's true orientation to live in peace with all its neighbours.

### Sunday's Economic Pulse

## Jordan's foreign debts — whose responsibility is it?

THE ORDINARY citizen listened with interest to what was said by some members of the Parliament about the responsibility of Madar Badran's previous administration for the heavy indebtedness. The citizen then listened to the response of the prime minister who placed the responsibility on the shoulders of Zaid Al Rifai's administration. After the overheated speeches were over, and the psychological effect faded away, the citizen was still wondering: Which administration was responsible and to what extent.

I am not going to make a sweeping judgement, because the Parliament's financial committee will examine the two sets of figures to find out the truth. It may call on some independent experts to make a testimony. I would be very glad to appear in front of the committee to shed some light, being almost the only voice which kept warning against indulgence in foreign indebtedness during the last ten years. At least six five articles were written to warn against the disaster. The officials at the time described my columns as destructive and dismissed my campaign as confidence shaking.

The figures and statistics used in the two opposite stories were substantially the same. They were derived from the same sources. The differences stem from the approach, the manner of presentation, and the stress on some words and phrases to make the desired influence on the audience.

Leaving rhetoric aside, we can look into indebtedness in two

methods. The first method concentrates on the outstanding debts at a given date, which means total amounts withdrawn less total repayments. This method is suitable to measure actual indebtedness at a certain moment. According to this method, Jordan's external debt reached \$6.5 billion by the end of 1988, and rose to \$7.3 billion by the end of 1989 as a result of capitalisation of interest as part of rescheduling and the net developmental borrowing.

The second method accounts for all the committed debt irrespective of whether it was withdrawn in total or in part. The debt according to this method occurs upon the signature of the credit agreement or the contract to buy on credit. The utilisation of the credit may take place during a following year or a following administration. This method is suitable to identify political responsibility for the debt. The official responsible for the debt is the one who committed the country not the official at whose time the commitment was implemented. According to this method we were told that total debt by the end of 1989 was \$8.5 billion according to the governor of the Central Bank of Jordan, or \$9.7 billion according to an opposition member of Parliament, and \$11.7 billion according to the prime minister.

Most likely the lower figure is the correct one, and the higher figures resulted from including financial commitments that did arise but were cancelled later on before utilisation, or as a result of completely ignoring repayments and simply accumulating the gross debt incurred irrespective of repayments. In the later case

the figures are meaningless because part of the debt was incurred simply to replace another debt with better terms and conditions.

The point remains that the contradicting figures of the member of Parliament and the prime minister can be reconciled and the differences explained.

It is worth mentioning however, that the prime minister did not try to deny the responsibility of previous administrations including his own, that ruled during the last fifteen years or so. According to his version of the picture, ex-prime-minister Rifai is responsible for 52 per cent of the debt. Granted that this estimate is accurate, then the previous governments until 1984 were responsible for 48 per cent of the total debt or \$3.9 billion. This figure puts Jordan on top of the list of debtor countries in the world relative to population and second only to Israel, as we have pointed out in April 1985. In other words Jordan has crossed the red line as of 1982. By 1985 it was hopelessly debt ridden. The following administration doubled a debt already beyond the capacity of the Jordanian economy.

One more point that should be brought to the analysis to render the figures meaningful and comparable: First the value of the dollar in 1987 is double its value in 1988, and the size of the economy in 1978 is half its size in 1988.

All the administrations that were in office during the last 15 years were responsible. The question is how each administration justifies its over-borrowing in the then prevailing circumstances, and to account for the proper use of it.

## Nigeria reconciled 20 years after Biafran war

By Naomi Wimburne  
Reuters

UMUAHIA, Nigeria — Twenty years ago the world was shocked by images of starving children in Biafra, a breakaway enclave in eastern Nigeria where the Ibo people waged a doomed battle for independence from 1967 to January 1970.

Hundreds of thousands of people died — some estimates say more than a million — in a conflict the International Red Cross at the time called the biggest emergency since World War II.

The wounds have largely healed, but some Nigerians say black Africa's most populous country is still in search of a sense of nationhood.

"Nigeria remains in essence an amorphous mass of individuals busy pretending to be a people," former rebel leader General Emeka Ojukwu wrote in a book published last July.

There has been a remarkable reconciliation since the war, symbolised by Ojukwu's return from 13 years of exile in 1982. He now lives in a fine house in the best part of Lagos.

But for much of the war, Voice of Biafra radio broadcasts Ojukwu's defiant secessionist message from an underground bunker in Umuaia, a small town in modern Ibo state which was the rebel base until they were bombed out in April 1969.

Renovated and housing memorabilia of the conflict, the bunker now forms part of a new war museum dedicated to national unity.

The leading protagonists, neatly framed in black and white, stare at each other across a concrete stairway leading down into it.

Inside hang harrowing images of starving, skeletal babies in besieged Biafra — images which wrung hearts across the globe as the war dragged on.

"We believed we had no alternative. It was die fighting or give up and be massacred," Ogboma Ukelonu, a member of Ojukwu's wartime inner cabinet, told Reuters.

But the genocide the Ibo's feared when their shrinking, besieged domain eventually collapsed in January 1970 — beaten by the forces of the Lagos-based federal military government headed by General Yakubu "Jack" Gowon — did not happen.

"I thought the federal commander who tracked me down with my family had come to shoot us. Instead he brought a peace message and the first beer I'd had in two years," said Ukelonu.

Ojukwu, who declined to be interviewed about the war, is not alone in believing that genuine unity among Nigeria's 100 million people is still elusive.

"We fought the war unity, but in fact it alerted people to their roots," said Ray Ekpku, editor-in-chief of Newswatch magazine, a member of a non-Ibo minority in the east.

Awareness of ethnic group, state of origin, and above all religion, inflames conflicts over access to education and employment, and looms over the present military government's programme for a return to democracy by 1992.

"Nigeria is still basically a geographical expression, not a cohesive unit," said Ekpku, echoing a comment by a leading

Nigerian nationalist before independence.

The country, plagued by a battle for power at the centre between three ethnically and religiously diverse regions, seemed destined to fall apart at the seams barely six years after independence from Britain in 1960.

Northern Muslims clung to political power at the expense of Western educated southern Christians whose dominance they feared.

Tensions exacerbated by widespread nepotism and corruption exploded in January 1966, when a group of young, mainly-Ibo army officers struck at the northern-dominated government, wiping out the cream of its civilian and military leadership.

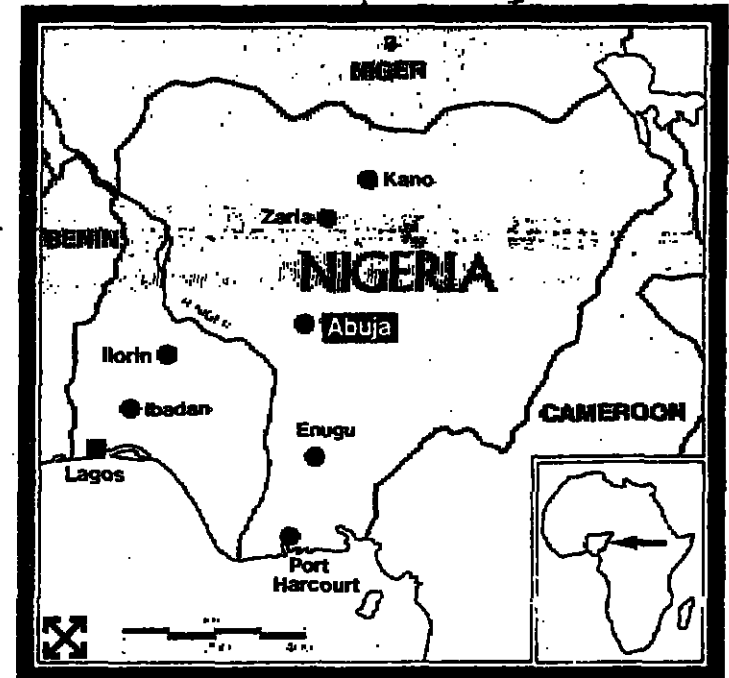
The supreme commander of

the armed forces Major-General John Aguiyi-Ironsi, by coincidence an Ibo, tried to restore order, but retaliation by outraged northern Muslims against what they saw as an Ibo coup was brutal and indiscriminate.

"They pursued Ibos and killed them like chickens," said Oliver Nwaka, an Ibo domestic servant in Lagos at the time.

Before he could join the exodus of terrified Ibos trekking home, he hid in the attic of his European employer's home, not daring to tune to eastern region radio.

Ironsi was killed in a second coup in July 1966, and a few months later young Ibos like Nwaka, answering a call from the charismatic and uncomprom-



## Peace is a distant dream in troubled S. African township

By Greg Myre  
The Associated Press

INANDA, South Africa — During the bright and sunny days, the lush green hills and streets full of laughing children give a deceptive sense of serenity to Inanda.

But during the sultry nights, the township becomes a battleground in a black-on-black power struggle that is three years old and still raging out of control.

Supporters of the United Democratic Front (UDF) a nationwide anti-apartheid coalition, and Inkatha, a relatively conservative Zulu group, have been killing one another at a furious pace since late 1986, leaving an estimated 2,500 dead in Natal province.

The violence, which began around the provincial capital of Pietermaritzburg, has spread across Natal and is most intense in Inanda, just outside the port city of Durban.

"There's no way to avoid the fighting. Everyone is involved," said Thulani Ncwane, 19, a supporter of the front.

"Even if you are peaceful, you must defend your home against attack," said Ncwane, whose chin is scarred from a bullet wound. His younger brother was less fortunate — he was killed a year ago.

More than 160 blacks died in factional violence near Durban in December, the highest monthly toll yet, according to a monitoring group from the anti-apartheid Democratic Party. The second-worst month was November, when 62 died.

The Inanda, rows of burned-out houses sit inconspicuously on gently rolling hills. Frightened residents seek sanctuary in churches

and the homes of their white employers and friends. Young men gather in small groups to patrol their neighbourhoods through the night.

"The political temperature just keeps rising," said Roy Ainslie, head of the unrest monitoring group. "The legal situation has collapsed and the leadership on both sides is not active in controlling its members."

Natal's conflict began heating up in 1987 as the rest of the country's black townships began cooling off after two years of nationwide turbulence.

Recent reforms by President F.W. De Klerk, such as allowing opposition rallies, have not eased the tension in Natal. Most combatants are in their teens and early 20s, and their focus is largely on the local power struggle rather than national political issues.

Poverty, unemployment, overcrowding and lack of political rights all are cited as causes for the Natal violence, although the same conditions prevail elsewhere. What distinguishes Natal is that it is the one part of the country where two powerful black factions exist side by side.

Mangosuthu Buthelezi, leader of the self-governing KwaZulu homeland, was long the major black political force in Natal. His Inkatha movement, which claims 1.5 million members, dominates rural areas.

But when the United Democratic Front was established in 1983, it won support from young, urban blacks who embraced the organisation's aggressive anti-apartheid tactics and its align-

ment with the outlawed African National Congress (ANC) guerrilla movement.

The front advocates sanctions, boycotts and strikes to put pressure on the white-led government and generally favours a socialist-oriented economy.

Buthelezi is a proponent of capitalism and says sanctions harm blacks.

Militants consider Buthelezi a collaborator with the government because he participates in the homeland system. But the Zulu leader says he sees the tribal government as an interim step on the road to black majority rule.

Buthelezi often is cited as the black leader most acceptable to white South Africans, and the government has tried to draw him into negotiations.

However, a government official who requested anonymity said surveys indicate Buthelezi has minimal support aside from his fellow Zulus, who account for about 7 million of South Africa's 28 million blacks.

A well-advertised Buthelezi rally in December drew only 3,000 people to a 15,000-seat stadium in Soweto, the sprawling township outside Johannesburg that is home to 2.5 million blacks. Many spectators were bused in from KwaZulu, hundreds of kilometres away.

"Black-on-black violence (has) become uglier and uglier and has now got about as ugly as it can get," Buthelezi told the rally.

"Without (black) unity we can forget about ever being able to destroy the white oppression."

Frustrated residents have taken the law into their own hands, forming "defence committees" and "people's courts." One punishment handed down by informal courts is "nude modelling," whereby the accused is stripped and marched through township streets.

Police have been unable or unwilling to stop the carnage. Ainslie said his monitoring group has recorded 1,500 violent acts in three years, but only five prosecutions. He said his group has submitted dozens of affidavits to police, but charges have not followed.

The front says police refuse to act against Inkatha and sometimes assist Inkatha members carrying out attacks. Police deny any bias and say they are unable to build criminal cases because potential witnesses, fearing reprisals, will not testify.

South Africa's Law and Order Minister Adrian Vlok, accompanied by Buthelezi, recently visited several townships. He described the poverty and violence as "appalling."

Police have added 700 men to the forces in the area, but the government has not offered long-term proposals to address the problems.

"One of the most damaging effects is the perception that it is because black life is not valued that the violence has been allowed to continue," wrote John Aitchison of the University of Natal.

If the same number of whites had been shot, stabbed, burned and mutilated, he wrote, then "surely something would have been done about it."

## LETTERS Hurting Aqaba's image

Dear Sir:

I was really surprised to read the article "Tourism operators warn of Aqaba disaster, urge action" in the Sunday, Dec. 31, edition of the paper. We were in Aqaba for a week in September and really enjoyed it. We were told that the hotels were fully booked from October to April. We asked in several hotels because we were trying to get accommodations for a friend who had family arriving from abroad.

Naturally, I assumed that no one should even think about going to Aqaba or suggesting Aqaba to friends from abroad during this high season unless one planned very far in advance. What a shame. It is possible that all the self-proclaimed popularity of this place is actually hurting it.

I have a cousin in the U.S. who is in the travel business. She is interested in Jordan. I wrote her about what I had heard in Aqaba (all hotels fully booked from October to May). She also wanted information on Jordan, and I told her that she could write to the RJ office in New York for literature and information. Now I read in your article: "RJ offices abroad can only help reserve seats for tourists, but lack qualified staff to help market Jordan's tourist attractions."

Barbara El-Baroudi  
Amman - Jordan

## OPEN FORUM

### A bird's eye view

I have a confession to make. My real name is not Magda Hamzeh, but for the time being I don't plan on telling you who I really am. This way I can do my own opinion poll and depending on the kind of feedback I get, I can decide when it is time to give my pen (pseudonym) a rest. You see, people are very frank when they talk about others behind their backs, but to their faces... Well you know what I mean, so let's get on with it.

Here's a scene witnessed recently at a supermarket:

A lady walks up to the counter and lays down her basket which contains three items and waits for the cashier to add up the prices on his register. That he does with impressive digital dexterity and speed and tells the lady that the total is JD 12.350. "Impossible, I added the prices on the packages myself and they came only to JD 6.400," the lady said. Flustered and with apparent impatience the cashier said: "You bought the cheese, the strawberry jam, the cake mix, the large bottle of detergent and the two tubes of toothpaste." Now hovering on super the lady said: "The first three items are mine, but I did not buy the detergent or the toothpaste." The cashier now had the look of a child caught with his hand in the cookie jar, and said: "I'm extremely sorry madam, I assure you it was an honest mistake."

Moral of the story: At supermarkets always check your bill and help "honest" shopkeepers stay honest. — We all know that almost every film is concerned before being shown on JTV. I am not getting involved in a discussion on the merits of censorship, or the lack to the way some are edited and how the rest is spliced together. After all these years of cutting out editors at JTV have missed enough experience which enables them to do the cutting and splicing with sufficient subtlety that the audience may not even notice. I wish someone from JTV would take notice of this fact, and relieve us of the patchwork that we end up with once the editor finishes his work. With a little more care films will flow rather than abruptly jump from scene to scene. Until next time... Be good.

Magda Hamzeh



# Water storage jar — North Jordan

## The hiding pot

By Jim Mason

UNTIL THE LUXURY of piped water first appeared in the villages of north Jordan, the historical Zira was heavily relied on as an essential method of storing water. Shaped like amphorae, they stand above the ground on metal tripods, fitted to accommodate their tapering form.

It is common to see them with wooden lids to keep out the dust and sand that blows frequently. Water inside them evaporates slowly, seeping through the unglazed clay walls to produce a cooling effect on both pot and contents. They are less used now, except in agricultural contexts, or where water is difficult to "pipe."

This wheel-thrown water jar has a predecessor of far more interest, hand-made by women and notable since it points to very basic ways of pot-making using clays that required re-adopting.

One of these potters is a woman called Zahara Yousef, who like many of her contemporaries, learned to make these large jars when she married.

"When I was a young girl growing up in Kufri Uthra, I had no idea about pottery. When I married, my husband brought me here to live in Rihab. We needed something to store oil in. At that time there were about five ladies in the village, famous for making pottery. I went to these ladies and asked them to help me make a pot."

The reasons that motivated Zahara to make pots is typical. Other reasons cited by other women include, necessity either financial or domestic, or because their craft activities helped to enhance their poor lifestyles, bringing some luxury into the home. It's not uncommon to discover that people made rugs, or wove fabric as well as pottery.

These activities were carried out by the women, whilst the men worked wood, producing bowls, spoons and wooden mortars, used in pounding coffee beans, as

well as other implements connected with agricultural work. Pottery making became re-established in this region sometime well before the turn of this century, although nobody is exactly sure when. Information comes from memories of people who are generally aged between fifty and seventy, people whose mothers or close relatives were more actively involved.

The range of these village pots include, plates, bowls of varying sizes, cooking pots and storage jars for oil, grain and other produce. Clay was a readily available material that was adapted for many everyday purposes. It was used extensively in housebuilding, and in manufacturing clay ovens for cooking, as well as breadmaking. It would therefore be a mistake to attempt an understanding of the place that village pottery had in the domestic lives of people in isolation. In order to first appreciate what I consider to be symbiotic relationship between people and the artifacts they use, it is necessary to recognise that clay was a useful, readily available "tool" from which other tools were made. The "presence" of this adaptable material helped sustain life, on a variety of levels, and in a variety of ways.

### A necessary feature

A well organised system for storing and keeping food was established in each household, providing a continuous need for the next pot. Oil and water in particular are consumed in quantity, creating a demand for large containers. Large, water storage jars were a necessary feature of every household. They are known colloquially as the Habiye, derived from the root word meaning to "hide". They gained this name from the place where it was kept in the house. To keep the contents cool, these jars were placed in shady corners of an inner courtyard, or alternatively in the corner of a kitchen. Some families embedded them into the walls of their houses, setting them at an angle, so that water could be drawn more easily. Custom in this regard varied

from person to person, and village to village. The pot thus became an aspect of family life, perhaps symbolising nourishment, enrichment, cleanliness and a sense, if not fact, of stability and continuity.

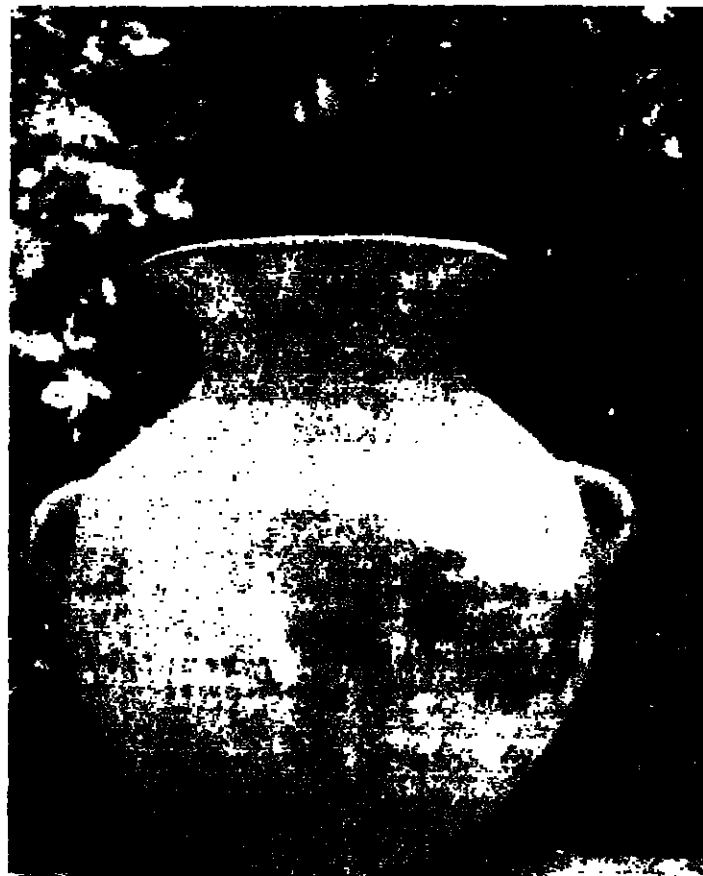
In some villages a bride, unlike Zahara Yousef, was required to bring with her Habiye into the household as part of her dowry. Many families prized their water jars, keeping them for long periods. A particular family in Husn, a village in the north, boast of having kept theirs for fifty years. They had possessed two, but one of them had perished when a part of the house had collapsed. (sic)

In general, the form of the water jars remain the same, but the shapes vary according to the particular idiosyncracies of their makers, as do the simple, and at times, crude, patterns adopted. Decoration was confined to either slip-painting impressing, or incising.

Circular rosettes, tree of life patterns, and in Muslim and Christian villages, crosses were applied with thin strips, and impressed onto the body of the pots. Fragments of shell, or broken ceramic plate were also used, set into the rims, or the outer edges of the handles as an extra decorative feature.

Burnishing and polishing existed as a decorative feature as well as a method of sealing the surfaces. Organic stains made from the boiled roots of oak trees were widely used as well. Stain was either rubbed into the surface, or the jars were left immersed in a bath and allowed to soak for up to three days.

This resulted in a lovely, rich rust coloured tint, which enhanced the burnishing, after it, too, was polished. The pink, buff and red firing clays showing pleasingly with warmth under these various surface treatments. Such methods were only found in cases where the jars had originally been made in Suf, a village laying north of Jerash. Techniques and methods of manufacture were kept simple, both in shape and overall technical treatment,



The famous pots

through the absence of added coils etcetera seem to be successful. They are the most aesthetically pleasing, pointing to the fact that once having developed a confidence with their materials their makers concerned themselves with the art of their work.

In general, potters learned by trial and error when they added minerals to re-adapt their low firing clays. Used alone, the surface clay deposits are unsuitable, and prone to vitrify at temperatures above a thousand Centigrade. The addition of temper varies in composition and type, some potters added crushed quartz, others added decomposed basalt whilst others crushed and ground old potshatters. Plasticity was regained in some areas by using a surface soil, "clayey" in texture and high in iron content.

### Earth + basalt

Ethnological study has revealed two broad trends in methods of adding temper, depending on geographical loca-

tion. Potters working in the villages of the Northern Plain worked with blends of earth and basalt, whilst those working in the hillier regions further south used marls and grog.

Details of these "trends" have been published by Merschen (Beyrout, vol XXXI, 1985). She says, "Clay composition for the Suf pots contain grog, mixed equally with marl — a mixture of clay and carbonate material, and is obtained from a locally well known water source. The extent to which this was considered a popular clay was important, since women as far away as Satana and Kufri Hall used to dig their marls at Suf."

The clay sources were important enough to spend much time and effort, on the potters' behalfs when supplies were needed. A description of an occasion when clay was collected gives us a rich insight into the life and times of these potters. Collecting clay was a social occasion, as well as a necessary chore. Several women



The famous pots

would gather together early in the morning, usually in the late spring. Together with their donkeys, digging implements and food, they would set out some- times to clay deposits which could range up to several hours travel away.

The evening before they were due to go, the group would meet at one of the houses, where they would discuss the following day's journey, after which, chatter would subside into reminiscing about the past, about other occasions when similar trips had occurred.

As dawn broke, and after all the ladies had arrived and arranged their various belongings onto the donkeys, they would set out. Here was a time away from the routine of family life. The women would be in a light mood, gossiping or breaking into song. Some of the older women, who still dress in their colourfully embroidered black gowns remember these trips as a time of happiness and levity, times when either necessity, or the making of a marriage gift would motivate them to make their pots, a time of welcome release, a time of meeting other women, of catching up on the gossip.

The pots were all made slowly, a bit each day, using coil and slab techniques, using up to forty

kilos of clay plus grog and other additions including goats hair and chopped straw. The clay was only mixed with water after the total bulk had been crushed with a heavy stone, cleaned and served and ground to a fine powder. The hair and chopped straw were added before mixing with water. It was usual for one water jar to take up to two weeks to complete, after which it was allowed to dry in the sun's heat for about a month.

The firing process was lengthy, taking up to four days. Two or three of the large jars would be placed on their sides in a pit dug about a metre into the ground. Hot embers were left in the pit onto which the jars were placed. Fuel used for the firings was simple. A mixture of twigs and brushwood would be mixed with dried sheep dung to make the initial fire in the pit. Generous amounts of dung would then be placed around the pots gradually covering them over. The clamp would then be fired by lighting it with a combustible material. When I was present at one of these firings benzene was used. In this manner the kiln would be basically "firing" from the inside of the clamp, whilst the firing from the outside was a precautionary measure.

Files of dung reached to about

a half metre above the pots, stoking was continued throughout the process. Up to two hundred kilos of dung was used. Temperatures gained by this method are generally low, but according to research somewhere in the region of between 700-900C, would be estimated. Rye, gives a recorded temperature of 755 deg C for twig dung firings, using similar methods in Palestine. According to the potters their rule of a well fired jar was one which possessed a "ringing" when tapped, which seems to be a general rule of thumb for potters worldwide.

This brief pottery making tradition, lasting no more than two hundred years at most, has left behind rich insights into the way people adapted clays and used available materials in a broad way, for a variety of purposes. The water jar, amongst all other types of pots expresses this limited tradition at its best, demonstrating an intelligent use of materials and therefore in my opinion, placing the work alongside other village pottery traditions. Through making the pots in the way that they did, and in the circumstances that they were made, a graphic picture is offered to us which may well reflect the methods used by the first potters in this region.

## Namibia's independence: A blank page to be filled

By Jerome Koechlin

This is the first in a two-part article on Namibia.

**WINDHOEK, Namibia** — The excitement has slowly died down in Namibia after the country's independence elections that were held last November. Now hard at work, the newly-elected delegates are busy drafting a constitution.

This is no simple task. The Marxist South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) which fought a 23-year guerrilla war to free Namibia of South African domination earned only 41 of the 72 seats in the constituent assembly. Having failed to obtain the two-thirds majority that would have allowed it to draft a constitution without the support of other parties, SWAPO is now working with them to reach a compromise on such questions as to whether Namibia should have a bi-cameral or single-chamber system, and on the intricacies of a true democracy with several parties participating in government.

Optimists say the new constitution will be ready by February. More conservative estimates aim for April. Meanwhile, South Africa's Administrator General Louis Pienaar remains responsible for the affairs of the country, and people are waiting to see what the future holds.

Among them is Mike Cowley, 22, public relations manager of CDM, a diamond mining company and a subsidiary of De Beers, the South African giant. Based in Windhoek, Namibia's capital, CDM has exclusive mining rights over the diamond mines in southern Namibia until the year 2010. The first diamond in the region was found in 1908, and in 1988 CDM extracted 16 million carats of ore.

A former journalist who worked as the bureau chief of a South African press group in Windhoek, Cowley joined CDM in 1978. Following are excerpts of a recent interview, during which he discussed the political and economic situation in Namibia as well as prospects for private companies, including CDM.

**Questions:** What political party do you favour, and what party would CDM like to see holding the reins of power?

**Answer:** "We don't give support to any party, either morally or financially. I would say that we support principles also upheld by the other political parties. Generally speaking we would like to see a democratic, multi-party form of government. We are sceptical about the establishment of a socialist system and would prefer either

a free market economy or a mixed economy which fits better an African society."

**Q:** How will independence influence Namibia's economy?

**A:** "The new government will have to negotiate with the mining companies — including CDM — to work out new contracts for diamond mining. In fact, Sam Nujoma, the SWAPO leader, has already met with CDM officials. We are ready to negotiate with whatever government emerges. Of course, we will have to determine what percentage is held by the government and what percentage is held by the De Beers group. But we wish to continue mining for diamonds here because we have the means, the technology and the capital to do so. However, at this point, we are paying 70 per cent (of profits) in taxes to the Namibian government, which is pretty high, so I don't think the government should raise the taxes in any substantial way."

**Q:** What will be SWAPO's role?

**A:** "Although SWAPO enjoys widespread support around the

country, it has its weaknesses: most of its leaders, including Sam Nujoma, have spent decades in exile and have only just returned. Things have changed a great deal in Namibia in the meantime. Also, on the diplomatic level SWAPO has managed to gain international recognition, particularly in the United Nations, but it was never very successful militarily. South African troops contained the guerrillas in southern Angola where they had their camps. And from a political point of view SWAPO leaders have no experience at all, which is not the case for the DTA party (Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, a coalition of African groupings) because it has participated in the country's political process for years."

**Q:** SWAPO claimed in its electoral manifesto that foreign companies involved in mining and fisheries and large land-owners dominated the Namibian economy and maximised profits by focusing on the exploitation of raw materials to be exported. Any comment?

**A:** "First of all, in CDM's case, let me say that we produce a raw material — uncut diamonds — and we export it as it comes. We do none of the cutting here. I have no objection if other companies want to do that here, but bear in mind that Namibia's entire diamond production is sold through the Central Selling Organisation (CSO) which is controlled by De Beers and sells 85 per cent of the world's diamond production. The question is how could a company dealing in cutting and polishing diamonds survive independently in Namibia without going through the CSO? Another point is that the great centers for diamond cutting traditionally are in New York, Antwerp, and Bombay."

**Q:** SWAPO's leaders often talk about the need for economic reconstruction, redistribution of land and wealth and the diversification of the economy. Are you in favour of reconstruction?

**A:** "I think there is a need for diversification. The country relies too heavily on raw materials. It produces and exports minerals

(about 80 per cent of total exports) mostly to Europe and the United States. It produces livestock which is mostly exported to South Africa. The fishing industry based around Walvis Bay is an important resource (potentially Namibia has one of the richest fisheries in the world) but it is run by South African companies. Another good prospect is to develop agriculture in the north with the irrigation of arid areas. "Diversifying won't be easy but contrary to what happened to many African nations at the eve of independence, Namibia has adequate resources to feed its people and riches that could be developed relatively fast. Namibia has gained independence with an infrastructure that is almost intact; very little was destroyed by war and the country's economy is doing well."

**Q:** Since the League of Nations gave South Africa mandate over Namibia in 1919, Namibia has depended heavily on economic ties with South Africa, where it gets 80 per cent of its imports. Will this change with independence?

**A:** "I think Namibia should detach itself gradually from South Africa, but I don't believe there is such a thing as total independence. It doesn't exist anymore, even in autocratic societies. But every change, every move Namibia makes to detach itself should be undertaken with care and thought. The situation will have to be studied and analysed, because if this is handled too fast and in a dogmatic manner, it could ruin the country's economy."

**Q:** What factors induced South Africa to accept Namibia's independence?

**A:** "No other topic was so often discussed at the United Nations. The Pretoria government was under growing pressure, and the nation certainly did not enjoy being pilloried, so the government felt there was something to be gained by accepting the independence process."

**Q:** What are the benefits?

**A:** "First of all to stop being criticised by everyone. Secondly, it may be a way for South Africa to come out of isolation and play

a more important role in the region. Finally, South Africa itself is undergoing reforms...and with the Namibia problem solved it has more money to spend on its own reforms."

**Q:** What influence can the independence of Namibia have on the reform process in South Africa?

**A:** "If it has any impact, it will only be socially. As you know, the more radical forms of apartheid were abolished in Namibia at the end of the 1970s. The way in which these changes came about certainly influenced South African blacks. But politically, these are two very different countries, largely for demographic reasons. The population of Namibia is 1.3 million with a population density of 1.5 inhabitants per square kilometre (compared to 18 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup> in Africa as a whole)."

"Meanwhile the population of South Africa is 34.1 million...the only truly effective political structure for Namibia lies in a central government and the "one man, one vote" principle. South Africa, on the other hand, is an

industrialised state with a large urban population; it looks as though the country may move towards a federal, decentralised system."

**Q:** Are you optimistic about Namibia's future?

**A:** "I am optimistic by nature. I think the government that will take shape will have an easier time managing the country because it will represent the aspirations of the majority of the people. However, there will be difficulties, for example unemployment (some 30 per cent of the active population is unemployed), plus the return of 40,000 Namibian refugees. A lot will depend on the government's ability to get a grip on things and forget past internal differences...the economy must be diversified, large numbers of people must receive training, and illiteracy must be eradicated (about 60 per cent of the population is illiterate). Independence is a step forward towards a more mature and determined society."

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**Jordan Times**

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# Egypt considers compromise with IMF

CAIRO (R) — Egypt is considering devaluation and higher interest rates as part of a compromise with the IMF on economic reform, Cabinet Minister Atef Obeid said Saturday.

"The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is proposing a devaluation of the Egyptian pound, and an increase in the interest rate. The amount proposed is not justified and bigger than needed," Obeid told Reuters in an interview.

But he added: "Disagreement on the two points will be settled and a compromise agreement will be reached soon."

Obeid, minister of cabinet affairs and administrative development, is one of Egypt's top negotiators in talks with the IMF and his comments were the first indication that Egypt was prepared to consider the two measures, which would have a major impact on the economy.

Economic sources said the IMF wants Egypt to devalue the pound by 40 per cent to help boost exports.

The IMF argues that the pound, fixed daily against the dollar, should be allowed to fall to take account of inflation, estimated by the IMF at up to 40 per cent, the sources said.

The IMF says inflation has pushed up costs for exporters, making Egyptian goods less competitive.

But Egypt, which calculates its inflation at 15 per cent, has resisted devaluing the pound, currently at 2.56 to the dollar, fearing price rises as a result of higher import costs.

The sources added that the IMF was pushing for a rise in interest rates to 25 per cent from 16 per cent to encourage savers by closing the gap between interest rates and inflation.

But that would also force a rise

in lending rates, which Egypt fears would hurt borrowers.

Both measures have proved sticking points in talks with the IMF, deadlocked for months by disagreement over the timescale and extent of reforms needed.

Egypt fears too sudden reforms could unleash social unrest.

Obeid said differences with the IMF had been narrowed and an IMF team was expected later this month to continue talks.

"We are no longer in disagreement on policies but only on the mechanism for setting rates and the extent of the measures. For this reason the problem has become easier and I think an agreement is likely," Obeid said.

"Progress is much better than last month. The dialogue is continuing and there is a better understanding now," he added.

Egypt stopped most repayments on its estimated \$50 billion foreign debt 18 months ago and needs IMF approval of its economic reforms before it can reschedule.

But as the IMF talks drag on, Egypt is coming under pressure from creditors and is running short of foreign exchange.

Economists also say Egypt fears aid money might be diverted to Eastern Europe, reducing funds for itself.

"It is natural for the West to help Eastern Europe where countries are more advanced and where bureaucracy is at a minimum," Obeid said.

Meanwhile, earnings from cotton, once Egypt's most lucrative export crop, dropped by almost a third last year and are expected to fall further this year, Egyptian

Cotton Authority sources have said.

Total export earnings in the state-run cotton industry dropped to \$250 million in 1988/89 from \$357 million, despite a price rise of 32 per cent.

The sources blamed the fall in revenues on last year's bad harvest. They added that with this year's harvest even worse than last year's, revenues were expected to fall further.

Egypt is expected to export 140,000 bales of cotton this year compared to 209,700 bales last year.

Once known as the "white gold" of Egypt, cotton production never really recovered from the widespread land reforms introduced by the late President Gamal Abdel Nasser and many farmers nowadays find cotton unprofitable to grow.

Compensating for less cotton earnings, the number of tourists visiting Egypt rose at least 25 per cent last year to a record 2.27 million people between January and November, a ministry of tourism official has said.

Tourism is the fourth largest source of foreign exchange after remittances from Egyptian workers abroad, Suez Canal tolls and

oil exports.

The number of nights spent by tourists rose to a record 20 million in the period, an increase of more than 15 per cent over the whole of 1988. December figures are not yet available.

Almost half the tourists were from Europe. Arabs made up 38 per cent and North Americans eight per cent, the official added.

For the first time, Libyans ousted Gulf Arabs as a leading Arab tourists. Egypt and Libya reopened their borders for the first time in more than a decade in May after a thaw in relations between Cairo and Tripoli.

fluctuation range

The statement said finance ministers, central bank chiefs and the European Community Commission, the EC's executive arm, welcomed the lira's move into the narrower band as a contribution to strengthening the EMS.

The change leaves the peseta, which became a full EMS member last summer, as the only currency still allowed to fluctuate by six per cent either side of its central rate.

The British pound, the Greek drachma and the Portuguese escudo still float freely because they have not yet joined the core exchange rate mechanism that keeps currencies within the tight bands.

The Commission added in a separate statement that Rome's decision "is also a further indication that member countries are preparing themselves for the first stage of economic and monetary union which will require greater convergence of economic policy and performance."

EC governments have agreed to start a first-stage move towards such a union on July 1 this year.

Both the Commission and the monetary committee, which groups deputy finance ministers and deputy central bank governors, urged Rome to continue fighting perennial economic ills that put the lira under pressure.

"The fiscal deficit has to be reduced further, state subsidies need to be curtailed and measures are needed to reduce the public debt," the Commission said.

## Italy devalues lira within EMS

BRUSSELS (R) — Italy has devalued the lira by three per cent against other currencies in the European Monetary System (EMS), a European Commission spokesman said Saturday.

The lira will also be subject in future to the same tight 2 1/4 per cent fluctuation limit within the EMS that other member currencies except the Spanish peseta observe, ending a 10-year exception that allowed it to fluctuate by six per cent.

The 12-nation bloc's monetary committee said in a statement that the changes had been agreed by the European Community's (EC's) finance ministers and central bank chiefs Friday night.

The devaluation marks the first realignment in three years of the EMS, a grid of semi-fixed currencies designed to create relative stability between European exchange rates.

There had been some speculation in exchange markets that several currencies could be adjusted because of their weakness against the booming Deutsche-

marks but only the lira's parity was altered.

Its central rate within the system was moved down by 3.01 per cent.

The statement said it had been decided to fix the new central rate at approximately the rate that had already prevailed on the market. That means the Italian currency may show little change when exchange markets reopen Monday.

The statement said the devaluation was decided after Rome asked to put the lira into the narrower 2 1/4 per cent fluctuation band, a measure it said last month was imminent.

Currency dealers had expected the measure to be accompanied by a devaluation since the mark — bolstered by dazzling economic prospects for West Germany as East European economies open up — had traded last week some four per cent above the lira at a record high.

That made a lira adjustment necessary to bring its rate against the mark inside the 2 1/4 per cent

## S. Arabia seeks bigger OPEC share

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Hisham Nazer, reiterating demands by King Fahd, said he hoped OPEC would raise the kingdom's oil output quota.

"The kingdom's OPEC quota is now 5.38 million barrels per day (b/d) and we hope to increase it during this year and forthcoming years," the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted him as saying on Saudi Arabian television Friday night.

King Fahd said last Sunday Saudi Arabia wanted a higher quota and would achieve this in consultation with other members of OPEC (the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) when demand in the market warranted.

Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, has launched a programme to increase its oil

output capacity to 10 million b/d from around 6.5 million in the next five years.

Saudi Arabia and other Gulf oil states, which together have two-thirds of the world's proven oil reserves, want to capture a large portion of the projected growth in oil demand in 1990s.

Nazer said King Fahd had asked him to ensure that "the kingdom should not lose its share in the market and this is what had happened in all OPEC conferences."

Riyadh insists that its 24.46 per cent share of the total OPEC output is an absolute minimum and it will not allow the percentage to shrink any further.

The 13-member group's ministerial meeting in Vienna last November raised Saudi Arabia's quota to 5.38 million b/d for the first half of 1990 from 5.014 mil-

lion in the second half of last year. It set a total output ceiling of 22.1 million b/d.

Quotas for the second half of 1990 will be reviewed in May. Saudi Arabia's oil production in December was estimated at 5.65 million in a Reuters survey.

"The kingdom reached this level of oil production because of high (oil) demand and... cooperation between producers and consumers," Nazer said.

He said oil demand and supply were now balanced in the market. Saudi Arabia, after years of cuts in government spending due to a decline in oil prices in the 1980s, plans to raise expenditure by two billion riyals (\$533 million) to 143 billion riyals (\$38.1 billion) in 1990 fiscal year.

Finance and National Economy Minister Mohammed Abu Khail said last week that oil revenues would increase in 1990 due to improvement in world oil markets.

Economists in the Gulf estimate the kingdom's oil revenues rose by more than 20 per cent last

year over 1988 and they believe the trend will continue in 1990 as world demand for oil is growing.

Nazer also said Saudi Arabia had discovered new fields yielding gasoline-rich and low-sulphur crudes which fetch a better price in the market.

"This may increase the price of barrel between \$1 to \$2," he said.

## Jordan to attend Arab economic talks Monday

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce will go to Cairo Sunday to take part in a three-day meeting by the directors of the Arab chambers of agriculture, commerce and industry due to start Monday.

The delegation groups members of chambers in Amman, Zarqa, Irbid, Jerash, Tafila as well as the Amman Chamber of Industry.

The meeting will discuss, among other issues, the role which the private sector in the Arab World can play in socio-economic development and in promoting services.

Secretary-general of the Amman-based Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Hassan Ibrahim will also leave for Cairo Sunday to take part in the same meeting and to hold discussions with delegates responsible for economic planning in the Arab World.

The meeting will be attended by a number of regional and international organisations like the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the Arab Organisation for Industrial Development and the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO).

## Poland attacks Comecon

WARSAW (AP) — Foreign Trade Minister Marcin Swiecki said Friday that the East Bloc economic alliance Comecon is outdated and should be replaced by a less rigid organisation to coordinate economic activities.

Swiecki joined Czechoslovakia's Finance Minister Václav Klaus in heaping criticism on the embattled trading bloc ahead of a Tuesday's meeting of the economic alliance in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Poland's Deputy Finance Minister Marek Dabrowski also told a news conference Friday that Poland will present proposals aimed at "marketisation" of relations among Comecon nations at the meeting in Sofia.

"The formula of integration based on coordination of plans is outdated. This means the Comecon statute and a lot of documents that served this formula have become useless," Swiecki, one of four communists in the Solidarity-led government, told the Zycie Warszawy newspaper.

Klaus has called for abolishing a whole range of agreements concluded earlier between Comecon members.

Members of the Soviet-guided economic alliance which was founded in 1949 have traditionally coordinated trade relations on the basis of centrally controlled five-year plans.

The Solidarity-led government has now scrapped central planning that the previous communist governments used to direct the economy and started to implement a radical economic reform plan aimed at creating a market-oriented economy.

"The time has come to create in place of Comecon a new, looser organisation," Swiecki said in the interview.

The Comecon members are the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, and Vietnam.

One of Poland's main grievances against Comecon is that trade is based on the rouble, a non-convertible currency, at a time when the Polish government is trying to make the zloty a convertible currency.

Swiecki also echoed a call that Klaus made during a visit to Poland last week to establish bilateral relations between Comecon countries saying because of the differences in the types of reforms and economic conditions that are now emerging in the East Bloc.

"I expect that the upcoming session of Comecon in Sofia will open the discussion and start a new direction of work on those problems," Swiecki said.

While Poland supports a thorough overhaul of Comecon, officials saw Warsaw stops short of advocating dissolution of the organisation.

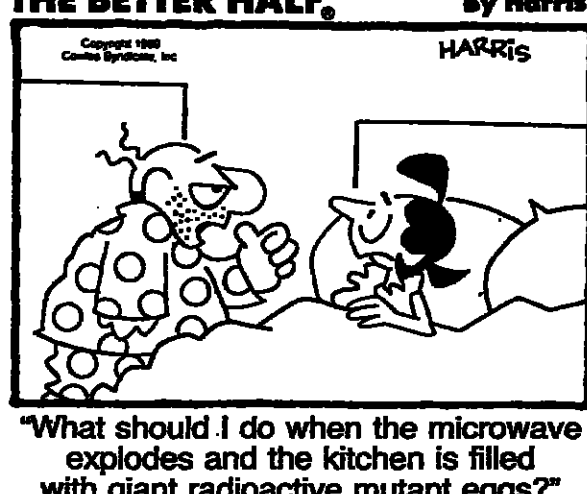
"We believe the Comecon structure should be very deeply transformed in the direction of market solutions," government spokeswoman Malgorzata Niezabitowska told a news conference.

Regarding financial assistance, Japan is planning to extend \$1.8 billion in additional aid to Poland and Hungary, news reports said Saturday.

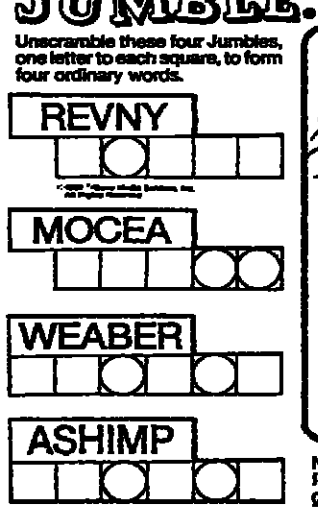
## AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday, January 6, 1989			
Central Bank official rates			
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	649.0	655.0	112.8 113.9
Pound Sterling	1060.4	1071.0	449.1 453.6
Deutsche mark	363.8	367.4	339.9 343.3
Swiss franc	419.9	424.1	103.7 106.8
			51.1 51.6
			184.1 185.9

## THE BETTER HALF.



## JUMBLE.

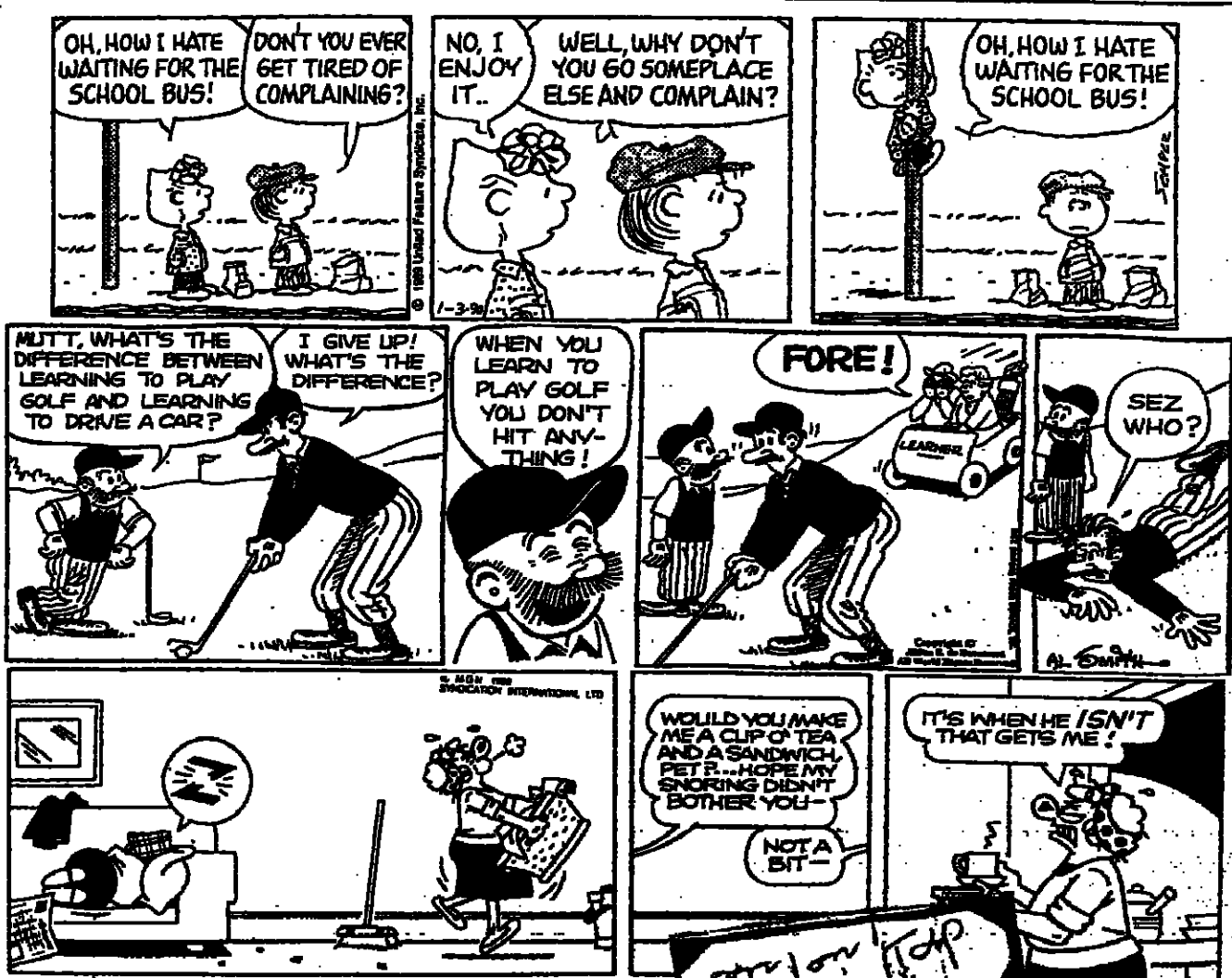


Print answer here: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Yesterday's Jumbles: IDIOT BOUND PSYCHE FATHOM  
 Answer: What graduation picture was a PHOTO FINISH

## Peanuts

## Mutt'n' Jeff

## Andy Capp





## Rensburg beats Steeb, Lendl downs Pernfors

NEWCASTLE, New South Wales (R) — South African Christo van Rensburg could wrap up the Roche Racquet Resort International tennis classic on Sunday after scoring his second victory of the Round Robin event at Salamander Bay on Saturday.

Van Rensburg, the world 27th seed, beat West German Carl-Uwe Steeb 6-3, 1-6, 6-1 in 90 minutes to be the only player in the four-man tournament with two victories.

On Sunday van Rensburg plays Mikael Pernfors from Sweden, who was beaten on Saturday by world number one Ivan Lendl. Lendl, despite a back injury, beat Pernfors 6-4, 6-2 in 73 minutes to stand in second position in the tournament.

He still has a chance to retain the classic title he won at the Roche Resort last year.

Lendl has one win, and was beaten by van Rensburg on Friday, but a straight sets win against Steeb on Sunday would keep him in contention.

Van Rensburg has to win only one set against Pernfors on Sunday to take the title.

Van Rensburg won on Saturday in windy conditions.

"I come from the second windiest city in the world of Port Elizabeth and I love these conditions," van Rensburg said.

He broke Steeb twice in the first set but dropped one serve himself for a 6-3 first set win then blamed an over-zealous umpire Warren Cusack for losing the second set 1-6.

The call came when van Rensburg was down 1-3 but it would have given him a break back to make the score 2-3 instead of 1-4.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Macari accused of illegal betting

LONDON (R) — Former Manchester United and Scotland forward Lou Macari faced a possible lifetime soccer ban on Saturday after being accused of unauthorized betting by the Football Association (FA). The FA took action against Macari after a British newspaper alleged that in January 1988, while he was manager of Swindon Town, he backed the club to lose against Newcastle United in a cup match. Newcastle won the game 5-0. The people newspaper said Swindon chairman Brian Hillier was paid £4,000 (\$6,500) from the bet. An FA spokesman said Macari and Hillier were accused of breaching a rule which forbids players and officials from betting on matches, except by taking part in authorized football pools competitions. Neither Hillier nor Macari, who now manages West Ham, made any comment on the FA accusations. They both have 14 days to respond to the charges. The FA spokesman said there was no suggestion that Macari, Hillier or Swindon fixed the result of the game against Newcastle. The FA can impose indefinite suspensions if its commission of inquiry reaches a guilty verdict in the case.

### Dinamo Bucharest to change name

ZURICH (R) — Dinamo Bucharest, the soccer team associated with Romania's hated secret police, may be allowed to change their name yet continue to play in the European Cup Winners' Cup. The European Football Union (UEFA) was quoted by the Swiss news agency ATS on Friday as saying that Dinamo's desire to change name was exceptional, an "unforeseen eventuality," and its competition committee would meet to rule on the issue. Newspaper reports from Romania said Dinamo, wishing to rid themselves of links with the Securitate police loyal to executed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, wanted to revert to their original name of Unirea Tricolor which they had until the communists took power in 1948.

### Player jailed in slaying of referee

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — A national league player has received a jail sentence for hurling a rock during a 1988 soccer match and killing a referee, a Harare newspaper reported Saturday. Second division player Lucky Zimhara pleaded guilty to a charge of culpable homicide and received a two-year sentence with eight months suspended, the Herald newspaper said. The newspaper, published by the state-owned mass media trust, said referee Showman Tsuro died on May 17, 1988, after Zimhara threw a sharp-edged rock at his head during an on-field dispute. The referee had showed Zimhara a penalty card ordering him off the field for using bad language during a match between second league Zimbabwe teams Arcturus and Camborne Bullets, the newspaper said.

## HOROSCOPE

### FORECAST FOR SUNDAY JANUARY 7, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Make headway and rapid progress by sticking to the conventional and the conservative. Don't get involved in confusing situations or you lose some of the benefits you deserve.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) This is the time to reach out for new acquaintances, who can become good friends. Persons you have long known will bring you the greatest pleasure at your home.

**Taurus:** (April 20 to May 20) Seek more accepted ways to increase your financial and practical security. A fine day to visit neighbors, kin and close companions. **GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Don't let any practical problems keep you from making influential new friendships. Two affections who mean very much to you can bring considerable happiness.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Depend more upon following advice of those who are in high positions. Get your practical interests arranged so that every facet is in good condition. **LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Private discussion of congenial matters can be instructive and entertaining. Now is the time to get out in the world of action with your attachment.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) A flock of friends from the past will be available to you; see as many as possible. Look for some new interests outside the home with your close attachment.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October

22) Seek suggestions on your daily duties with those not connected with your family. Interesting discussions with your mate can bring a new rapport for you both.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Join in whatever new and interesting ventures your family thinks up. Talk over carefully any joint expenses in projects with friends.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You now see how to put activities on a modern and up-to-date basis. Perform your share of home duties so that you will please family members.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Be careful with a disagreeable person who wants to be a part of your social circle. An atmosphere of jealousy should pervade your residence.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) If you persist in asking, a shy expert will let you in an information you desire. Entertainment and recreation will bring you pleasure at home and away.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Influential persons are about to become friends, so leave time for them in your daily schedule. Arrange your home the way you like it to be seen by all.

**TODAY'S CHILD:** If your child were born today he or she enjoys a smooth early life and the benefits of a fine education as long as the subjects studied have a breadth of scope and continuity. This progeny will feel lost in case of an emergency even though they are basically intelligent and have good judgment.

## WANTED

Wanted for immediate employment by a leading consulting firm in Saudi Arabia:

1. Project managers.
2. Electrical engineers.
3. Sanitary and HVAC engineers
4. Civil and structural engineers
5. Architects
6. (GDS) draughtsmen
7. Quantity surveyors.

Candidates with extensive experience in design and supervision and who have excellent command of English are encouraged to apply. Suitable candidates will be called for interview in Amman very shortly. Please apply to P.O. Box 87132, Riyadh 11842, Saudi Arabia



Berti, on left, is to take over from 'Kaiser Franz' after the World Cup in Italy.

## Beckenbauer steps down, Berti Vogts steps in

FRANKFURT — "What Berti Vogts is doing is a blessing for German soccer," says Günter Netzer, who used to play alongside him for Borussia Mönchengladbach and his country.

Two years ago, when Netzer awarded his former team-mate this accolade, Vogts had just coached the national under-21 squad to the world championship final. Millions of soccer fans in the Federal Republic of Germany are hoping Netzer's words will prove prophetic.

Vogts, 43, is taking over from Franz Beckenbauer next summer, after the World Cup tournament in Italy, as national team manager of the German Football Association (DFB), the largest sports association in the world.

"There won't be many changes," said Vogts when DFB president Hermann Neubauer broke the not unexpected news.

"We have a young squad, the best for years. There won't be a clean sweep this time." All the present squad except sweeper Klaus Augenthaler of Bayern Munich have been members of Berti Vogts' under-21 crew.

## F.A. Cup:

### Northampton humbles Coventry

LONDON (R) — Coventry City, English Football Association (FA) Cup winners in 1987, fell to lowly opposition at the first hurdle for the second year in a row when they lost 1-0 at third division Northampton on Saturday.

Fellow first division sides Wimbledon, the cup winners in 1988, and Luton, thrashed 4-1 at Brighton, also crashed out in the third round as first and second division clubs joined the survivors from the first two rounds.

Wimbledon, who beat West Bromwich Albion in the third round two years ago on their way to winning the trophy, lost 2-0 to the same second division rivals. League leaders Liverpool failed to breach third division

Swansea's defence and face a replay with the third division side at Anfield on Wednesday after a 0-0 draw.

League champions Arsenal were among only three first division sides to win as Chelsea and Norwich fought back to scrape draws against lowly opposition and Aston Villa were held 2-2 in an exciting match at Blackburn Rovers.

Southampton spoiled Tottenham Hotspur manager Terry Venables' 47th birthday by beating fellow first division Spurs 3-1 in London.

The only minor league survivors are Darlington, who held fourth division Cambridge to a 0-0 draw.

## U.S. invites 28 players in preparation for WC

NEW YORK (AP) — Sitting poolside in Trinidad after the United States qualified for the World Cup, Bob Gansler said that while Brent Goulet didn't fit in with the U.S. team then, he might return.

The coach kept his word Tuesday when Goulet was one of 28 players invited to report as the U.S. team regroups in preparation for its first World Cup appearance in 40 years.

The training camp, which began Friday at La Jolla, California, runs through Jan. 18. The next games for the United States are in the Marlboro Cup of Miami from Feb. 2-4. The U.S. team plays Uruguay and either Colombia and Costa Rica.

"We certainly are going to attempt to augment our roster to improve in any way we can," Gansler said. "I feel that the best way to handle this is bring in two, three or four at a time and give them a realistic look, not only in training but in training games."

Goulet, 25, has seven goals in 14 career appearances with the U.S. team, good for third on the all-time scoring list behind Ricky Davis (9) and Willie Roy (8). Goulet was dropped from the national squad last May after a scoring slump.

"Brent just didn't play well for whatever reason," Gansler said Tuesday from his home in Milwaukee. "When Brent doesn't score, he doesn't really add a heck of a lot of other things to the team. He is not the type of player who will make the others around him be better players."

Goulet has been playing with the Tacoma Stars of the major indoor soccer league in the United States and has scored nine goals in 15 games. It's not yet clear whether he'll be able to accept the invitation.

"We'll be making a decision in the next couple of days whether to release him," Tacoma spokesman Mike Vandenkolts said. "The core of the team that helped the United States qualify for the World Cup will be at the training camp."

## Multi-million dollar Lewis-Johnson matchup

RALEIGH (R) — Carl Lewis' business manager said Tuesday he was discussing the possibility with at least six groups of a multi-million-dollar race in September between the two-time U.S. Olympic champion and disgraced Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson.

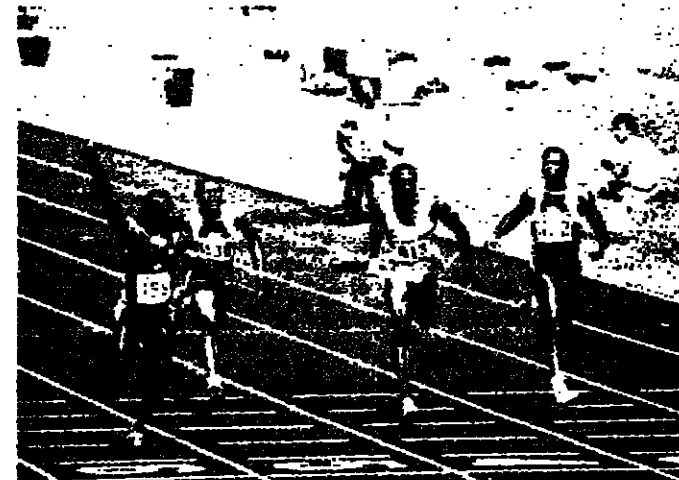
"The lowest offer — and the latest round — has been \$1 million for Carl and the highest has been six million," Joe Douglas, Lewis' business agent, told Reuters by telephone from California. "But I don't know how substantial any of the offers are."

Three of the groups are from the United States, two from Spain and one from the Netherlands, he said. The race could gross more than \$10 million, Douglas said he had been told. "It would be the event of the year," he said.

The rematch probably would take place a few days after Johnson regains his eligibility on September 25, Douglas said.

Johnson, who crushed Lewis in a stirring 100 metres final at the Seoul Olympics in 1988, was suspended for two years by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) after testing positive for steroids at the 1988 race. He also was stripped of his gold medal and will lose the 100 metres world record, which he set in 1987, to Lewis later this month because of admitted drug use.

Lewis won four gold medals in



Ben Johnson after breaking the 100 metre world record

the 1984 Olympics and successfully defended his titles in the 100 metres and long jump at the 1988 games.

Talks continue over where the race will be held, Douglas said. "As far as viewing the race (on television) in the states, Japan would be a good market and North America would be a good place," he said. "I don't know if the Johnson people would want it in America, but I would. Europe would be my third choice. But you go where the best situation is. Wherever they have it is fine, so long as it is promoted well."

Britain's daily Express reported last month that U.S. boxing promoter Bob Arum had lined up a \$3.2-million race be-

not identify any of the groups by name.

Douglas said talks also were taking place with people who worked for a U.S. television company.

"We would definitely want to bring in pay-per-view (cable) television," he said.

At least five or six athletes would be involved in the 100-metre race, Douglas said.

"And wherever it is held, I don't want it to be a side show or a circus," Douglas said. "I want it to be a great track event with more than one race. I think we should also have a 200, 400 and perhaps 800 (metres) for men and a couple of women's events."

"I should be a great track show, one with a lot of money on the line that sets a precedent for future races."

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A family of four people requires house help, preferably from the Philippines.

Please call for an appointment Tel. 648503 or write to P.O. Box 6160 Amman.

## THE Daily Crossword by Betty Jorgensen

**ACROSS**

1. Make change
2. Belt
3. Mount — (observatory)
4. "To — things, and not my love" (Spenser)
5. Copy
6. Christmas reindeer
7. Clapham
8. Pentacle
9. Record
10. Washington title
11. A Lewis
12. Article
13. Porium
14. Same wear
15. Others in
16. Madras
17. Jolly visitor
18. " — , humanism"
19. " — , humanism"
20. Humley novel
21. Fumbles
22. Clear up
23. Fits snugly
24. Antelope's
25. NCO
26. South Fr.
27. College head
28. Sista, Dabbini
29. Fourth
30. dimension
31. West's Wyatt
32. Early wind
33. Instrument
34. Eng. cheese
35. Prisoner on the leg
36. Endless to poets
37. Faint
38. Trainers
39. Tots up

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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

**ACROSS**

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**DOWN**

1. Old of old song
2. Dodged
3. Field notes
4. Second of a Latin trio
5. Pad
6. Gifts
7. Crowd together
8. Police
9. Told
10. Prison island
11. Overabundance
12. River to the Rio Grande
13. Tire
14. Dolls of song
15. Fund keeper
16. Funds and Gov.
17. Breathing sounds
18. Cathedral
19. Trolley
20. Fall mo.
21. Relish
22. Redness
23. National Park
24. Amateurlish
25. Insects
26. Davit
27. Small house of worship
28. Attitude
29. Disabled
30. Manile
31. " — day this has —"
32. Soft type
33. Bluebonnet
34. These: prof.
35. — Canals

## RAINBOW

LICENCE TO KILL

3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Tel: 625153

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Rob Lowe... in

OXFORD BLUES

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Tel: 677420

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Rob Lowe... in

OXFORD BLUES

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Tel: 677420

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Tel: 677420

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

## PHILADELPHIA

IRON ANGELS

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Tel: 634144

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Rob Lowe... in

OXFORD BLUES

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Tel: 634144

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

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Tel: 634144

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

## NIJOM

Rock Moranis... in

Honey, I Shrunk The Kids

Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30. Fridays and Sundays extra shows at 11:00 a.m.

Tel: 675571

Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Rock Moranis... in

Honey, I Shrunk The Kids

Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30. Fridays and Sundays extra shows at 11:00 a.m.

Tel: 675571

Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Rock Moranis... in

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# Panama removes officers loyal to Noriega as exiles return

PANAMA CITY (R) — The New Panamanian government has cleaned itself of military officers loyal to deposed strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega as prominent exiles returned to the country and long-suppressed institutions reopened.

Vice president Ricardo Arias Calderon told a news conference that 39 top officers were discharged and would not form part of Panama's new security force because of their association with Noriega. Forty-two other officers were retired because they had completed 25 years in the military, he said.

Arias Calderon said two of those officers — Colonel Guillermo Wong, former head of intelligence, and Lieutenant Colonel Leonidas Macia — were instruments of Noriega's repression.

Many of the officers whose names appeared on the lists have been arrested by American troops who invaded Panama on Dec. 20 to overthrow Noriega and install a new government led by President Guillermo Endara. A few remained at large.

Exiles, including a trade union leader and the editor of La Prensa, a leading opposition paper under Noriega, returned home Friday to cheers and confident expectations.

Another newspaper opposed to two decades of military rule in Panama, El Panama America, appeared on the streets Friday after being closed for 21 years. Lieutenant General Carl Stiner, commander of the invasion, said U.S. soldiers had uncovered a cocaine processing lab Thursday near Panama's border with Costa Rica.

Noriega took refuge in the Vatican embassy on Christmas eve seeking political asylum but handed himself over to U.S. authorities Wednesday night to be flown to Florida to face drug trafficking charges.

Military officials said an American soldier was shot by a sniper Friday in Panama City but was unhurt as his helmet deflected the bullet. It was the first report of an American soldier coming under hostile fire in days.

About 200 hard-core backers of Noriega remain on the loose and capable of causing trouble, says Stiner.

"Our first priority is to capture their leadership," the U.S. general told reporters Friday at Howard Air Force Base.

Panamanians almost unanimously support the U.S. invasion, despite casualties that personally touched nearly a quarter of the population, a poll there has found.

More than six in 10 of the 794 Panamanians polled expect the invading U.S. troops to remain there for six months or longer, and nearly eight in 10 said they want the soldiers to stay that long or "as long as necessary."

The survey, consisting mostly in-person interviews, was done

Tuesday through Thursday by CBS News and Belden and Russonello, a research firm based in Washington. Remote areas were excluded, but results can be projected to about 75 per cent of the population. The poll has a four-point error margin.

CBS pollsters Kathleen A. Frankovic noted that the findings could reflect a "post-Noriega-out-of-there euphoria" among Panamanians. Follow-up surveys could find whether the support for the invasion is lasting or short-lived.

As things are, 92 per cent said Noriega's reign was mostly bad for Panama, and even more said the Panamanian people couldn't have ousted him alone. With Noriega out, 90 per cent expect the situation in Panama to improve.

The U.S. invasion won equally resounding support: Ninety-two per cent were in favour, with most of them approving strongly.

Eight in 10, moreover, believed the United States "sincerely cared about helping Panamanian democracy." Nearly as many said they would have supported a U.S. invasion during a coup attempt by Panamanian officers in October.

Roughly three-quarters said U.S. troops used appropriate force in the fighting, which lasted four days, leaving an estimated 600 people dead and thousands wounded. Surprisingly, 19 per cent said the invaders used too little force.

Despite the casualties, 87 per cent said Noriega's ouster was

"worth the price." In Miami, attorneys for Noriega say they aren't seeking a plea bargain and will move ahead with plans to bombard a federal court with motions to dismiss drug-trafficking charges.

Meanwhile, Noriega remains hidden from the public eye, reportedly in a subterranean room at the federal courthouse where he has met several times with defence attorneys.

"A man who is innocent is not receptive to any plea bargain," defence lawyer Steven Kollin said Friday after a two-hour conference with Noriega. "General Noriega is not guilty of these charges and if we can find a jury of 12 people who will have an open mind... General Noriega will be acquitted."

President George Bush says rebuilding Panama's economy is a "major priority" of his government, and he is sending Vice President Dan Quayle on a mission to repair relations with Latin American nations.

Bush said Friday he would dispatch Quayle to tour the region and try to reverse the negative reaction to the U.S. invasion of Panama, which was roundly deplored in Central and South America.

"I am concerned, because I am well aware of how our friends south of our border... look at the use of American force anywhere," Bush said at a White House news conference.

He added, however, that he believes the diplomatic damage is "correctable."

# Azeris continue border assault as Soviet troops patrol region

MOSCOW (R) — Growls of Azeris began tearing down remaining border installations along a stretch of the Soviet frontier with Iran Saturday but troops patrolling the troubled Azerbaijan region of Nakhichevan did not intervene.

Local journalists said Nakhichevan, scene of a week of turmoil with predominantly Shiite Muslim Azeris demanding more farmland and freer access to Iranian Shiite across the border, remained tense.

They said angry crowds had rejected a call by an official delegation Friday for damaged border posts, barbed wire and other installations to be replaced.

Instead protesters headed for a stretch of the border Saturday to complete the destruction of frontier posts.

"There has been no interference from the militia or other troops," said a journalist with the Nakhichevan newspaper Vostok. But she said troops in jeeps and armoured personnel carriers were patrolling the area and the families of border troops were being evacuated, raising fears of a crackdown.

The reports could not be independently confirmed. Azerbaijan, including the capital Baku, has been closed indefinitely to foreign journalists.

The radical Popular Front, which is leading the protests, has demanded a meeting next week

with Azerbaijani authorities to discuss their grievances.

The turmoil along the Iranian border, which erupted on Dec. 31, is the most volatile incident in a wave of ethnic unrest and nationalist fervour gripping the country.

In the disputed Azerbaijani territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, rival Armenians and Azeris exchanged gunfire in nightly shoot-outs, local journalists said. A correspondent at a local Armenian newspaper said a renewed rail blockade of the territory's capital Stepanakert had sealed off the region.

He said poor weather had also forced a suspension in helicopter shipments of food from Armenia, which disputes Azerbaijan's claim to the predominantly Armenian enclave.

Interfax, a publication of Moscow Radio, reported one person was killed Thursday in ethnic fighting in the Azerbaijani town of Khanlar and Interior Ministry troops had been sent to the area. The report could not be independently confirmed.

Increasing separatist sentiment in the once-independent Baltic republics, the deadly rivalry between Armenia and Azerbaijan and unrest in other areas have forced Moscow to turn its attention more and more towards domestic issues.

Earlier this week, Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev cancel-

led a meeting here with British Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock.

However, a Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman said a meeting between Gorbachev and a senior Japanese politician would go ahead as scheduled on Jan. 15.

Next Wednesday, Gorbachev leaves for a fact-finding trip to the Baltic Republic of Lithuania, where the local Communist Party last month cut its formal ties to the Moscow party.

Gorbachev, who is to head a senior party delegation to the republic, will report back to a special Central Committee plenum later this month.

The move by the Lithuanian party — which supporters say is the only way to be competitive in coming elections — has been attacked by the Kremlin as a threat to the entire Soviet party. The break is the first since the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, and the parties in neighbouring Latvia and Estonia have hinted they may follow suit.

More than 300 civilians and 18 Interior Ministry troops died throughout the country in ethnic clashes over the past two years, a Soviet newspaper said Saturday.

The newspaper, a weekly supplement to the daily Izvestia, said some 5,000 civilians and more than 800 soldiers were injured in the disturbances, ranging from the Transcaucasus to the Fergana Valley in Uzbekistan.

# COLUMN

## AIDS toll rises 50%

GENEVA (R) — AIDS swept the world at an alarming rate in 1989, the reported number of cases rising by more than half to over 200,000 despite a global prevention campaign. Reports from 177 countries or territories signalled a cumulative total of 203,599 cases to the World Health Organisation (WHO) by the end of 1989, compared with 132,976 by end-1988, according to WHO figures. "We have arrived at a critical junction in the global fight against AIDS," said Dr. Jonathan Mann, who leads WHO's AIDS fight. "The gap between the pace of the epidemic and prevention and control efforts is threatening to widen." A person can be infected for a long time by the HIV virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) before actually developing it. Many of those cases which are now being reported were infected with the virus several years ago, and because of bad reporting networks some of those reported during 1989 had even developed full-blown AIDS in earlier years.

## Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	3	7	Cloudy
ATHENS	15	26	Clear
BAHRAIN	23	34	Clear
BAHRAIN	23	34	Clear
BEIJING	2	7	Cloudy
CAIRO	11	22	Clear
CHICAGO	-1	10	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	1	10	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	4	10	M.M.
GENEVA	3	10	Cloudy
HONG KONG	17	23	Cloudy
ISTANBUL	10	22	Clear
LONDON	8	11	Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	10	22	Clear
MADRID	10	22	Clear
MEXICO	22	27	Cloudy
MONTREAL	-1	10	Clear
MOSCOW	-10	14	Clear
NEW DELHI	18	24	Clear
NEW YORK	4	10	Clear
PARIS	10	16	Cloudy
ROME	-4	12	Cloudy
SYDNEY	20	26	Cloudy
TOKYO	11	16	Clear
VIENNA	1	10	M.M.

M indicates missing information.

# Prague to hold elections by June

PRAGUE (AP) — The Communists, the opposition and other political groups have agreed that free elections should be held by June, the Czechoslovak News Agency (CTK) reported.

Civic Forum, the umbrella opposition group now governing in coalition with the Communists and other official parties, had been pressing for June elections to the 350-member parliament, now dominated by the Communists.

Some Communist leaders also have talked of holding elections in the first half of 1990.

No specific date was set.

In a brief dispatch Friday, CTK said participants had discussed a draft constitutional law on recalling and electing parliamentary deputies, and reviewed first drafts of a law on staging free elections.

It was decided "that elections to the highest legislative bodies should take place still in the first half of 1990," CTK added.

"Elections to local representative bodies should take place later, after the necessary political climate in the society is created," CTK said without elaborating.

While the opposition and other political parties now have a voice

in the federal government, there have not yet been significant leadership changes on local levels.

More talks are scheduled Thursday, CTK said.

The various political groups first held round-table talks to create the coalition government and resolve the political crisis after President Gustav Husak stepped down Dec. 10 in the wake of huge pro-reform demonstrations.

Vaclav Havel, a playwright who helped spearhead the reform movement, is now the nation's president.

# Hungarian opposition accuses ministry of spying

BUDAPEST (AP) — Opposition leaders, preparing for Hungary's first free nationwide elections in more than 40 years, on Friday accused the Hungarian Interior Ministry of spying on them and offered documents they said proved it.

Premier Miklos Nemeth urged prosecutors to investigate, and promised the findings would be swiftly disclosed.

Nemeth also said in a statement that the government was drafting legislation to redefine the duties of the state security apparatus, the Hungarian News Agency (MTI) said.

Leaders of two opposition groups, the League of Free Democrats and the Alliance of Young Democrats, showed reporters copies of documents they said were compiled by the Interior Ministry's State Security Service.

The two groups said they had asked the state prosecutor's office to investigate whether the constitution and the penal code had been violated by the security service.

A top security official, Jozsef Horvath, appearing later on state television, did not dispute the authenticity of the documents, which contained information about the groups' activities and campaign strategies. The opposition leaders refused to say how they acquired them.

# Army dissidents killed 200 civilians — Liberia commander

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — A Liberian army commander said armed dissidents entered north eastern Liberia nearly two weeks ago and killed more than 200 civilians, a radio station reported Saturday.

Brig.-Gen. Edward Smith, army commander in the embattled Nimba county, revealed the civilian casualties Friday when he briefed President Samuel K. Doe on the situation, according to Radio Elwa.

Radio Elwa is an independent Evangelical station based in Monrovia and broadcasting throughout West Africa.

The radio quoted Smith as saying that in one border town, seven people had been shot and killed as they were praying in a mosque. He apparently did not give details of the other civilian deaths, but said only one Liberian soldier was killed in the fighting.

Smith said a few of the dissidents remained on the run,

"sporadically attacking civilians in the forest areas of Nimba" but that Liberian forces had driven the rebels from Butuo, a border town.

He said those forces were bringing the situation under control.

The broadcast, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC), did not say whether Smith and Doe discussed the number of Liberians who reportedly have fled into neighbouring Ivory Coast to escape the hostilities.

Diplomats have said it is difficult to determine the number of Liberians fleeing the hostilities, but some reports have put the figure as high as 8,000 to 10,000.

Smith also displayed identity cards he said were taken from the dissidents in the fight, three of which he claimed showed that some of the rebels were Ivorian nationals, the radio said.

Liberia repeatedly has accused Ivory Coast of harbouring Doe's

opponents, a charge the Ivorians deny. Justice Minister Jenkin Scott said Tuesday the invaders, whose numbers he put at 96, had been trained in Burkina Faso and Libya. Burkina Faso has denied the claim.

The fighting started on Dec. 24 when, according to Liberia, two groups of rebels entered the country from Ivory Coast intent on overthrowing Doe, who seized power in a bloody 1980 coup.

Doe said it was the fifth time in his 10-year rule that dissidents have tried to infiltrate Liberia from Ivory Coast.

One of the groups killed a police sergeant in Butuo before government forces arrived, while the other group reached the capital of Monrovia, but abandoned their weapons and surrendered, Doe said Tuesday.

Doe put the sparsely populated region 160 kilometres distant under a dusk-to-dawn curfew Tuesday. He arrived Friday to survey the situation, which he said was returning to normal.

# WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

## Cold wave kills over 200 in Bangladesh

DHAKA (R) — The cold wave sweeping Bangladesh killed 50 people Friday, raising the death toll to more than 200 in the past two weeks, officials said Saturday. They said they feared more deaths because temperatures, which dropped to 1.2 degrees Celsius (34 degrees Fahrenheit) in the Rajshahi, Syedpur and Pabna districts, were still falling. The 50 who died Friday were mostly pavement dwellers in those three districts. The death toll from the latest cold wave has surpassed the previous worst record, set in 1988 when 100 people were killed.

## Rebels vow offensive in Philippines

MANILA (R) — Communist rebels have claimed responsibility for killing a town mayor in the northern Philippines, saying it was the start of a stepped-up campaign to assassinate government and military personnel, including American servicemen. "That was just the beginning, more will follow," a guerrilla, identifying himself as a New People's Army (NPA) commander in Pangasinan province, told reporters hours after the attack Friday. Three Communist hitmen called "sparrows" for their swiftness, shot Mayor Javier Hilzon in the chest in front of his house in Mexico town, Pangasinan, 55 kilometres north of Manila. His security aide was also killed. The town is 15 kilometres from the major U.S. military facility of Clark Air Base where Communist sparrow hitmen killed four Americans in October 1987. Meanwhile soldiers killed six Muslim separatist guerrillas in a three-hour gunbattle in the southern Philippines, two days after rebels shot dead three government peace emissaries, the military said Saturday. The gunbattle occurred Friday in Barira town, Maguindanao province, some 900 kilometres south of Manila, brigade commander Brigadier-General Orlando Soriano said.

## 13 held for mass killing in U.S.

PAINESVILLE, Ohio (AP) — A prosecutor investigating the deaths of five members of a family found buried under a muddy barn floor says the killings may have been human sacrifices, and a grand jury has indicted 13 people. The grand jury, returning the indictments late Friday in Painesville, charged reputed religious cult leader Jeffrey Lundgren, his wife, son and 10 members of his group in the deaths of the family. Lake County Prosecutor Steven C. Latourette said those indicted "are not crazy. They are the coolest, most inhuman people this country has ever seen. They're going to die in the electric chair for these crimes," he said. The five dead are believed to be Dennis Avery, 49; his wife, Cheryl, 42; and their three daughters, Trina, 15; Rebecca, 13 and Karen, 7. The avers, found Wednesday and Thursday at Lundgren's Kirtland Farm, apparently were killed because of Lundgren's religious concept and a prophecy, Latourette said.

## 58 journalists killed in 1989

BRUSSELS (AP) — The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) said 58 journalists had been killed on duty last year and called for an international action to protect the profession. "The number of journalists killed in action reached in 1989 a painfully high level," IFJ President Mia Doornmont told a news conference here. She said her organisation would make protection of journalists one of its main goals this year. "When a journalist dies," she said, "this is not only a personal tragedy for the family, it is also a direct attack at freedom of expression and freedom of the press." Ms. Doornmont called for a concerted international action aiming at increasing the safety of journalists "who are increasingly the victims of governments which want to censor (information) through violence." She added IFJ would ask for putting the security of journalists on the agenda of the United Nations in April.

# Shevardnadze in Romania

BUCHAREST (AP) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze arrived Saturday for the first talks between the Kremlin and the interim Romanian government that overthrew and executed Nicolae Ceausescu.

Shevardnadze was welcomed at Otopeni Airport by Romanian Foreign Minister Sergiu Celac and other Romanian officials, the state-run Rompres News Agency reported.

Romania's ties with Moscow had been strained for decades by the unavailing foreign and trade policies of Ceausescu, who had resisted the reforms of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Shevardnadze's trip will be a one-day affair. But Silviu Brucan, a foreign policy expert in the National Salvation Front governing Romania, has said Bucharest's new government has high hopes for the visit.

In an interview with Bucharest Radio Friday, Shevardnadze said the Romanian revolution "has enormous significance for the interests of Europe and has an echo which can justifiably be considered as universal, important for the entire world."

One sensitive issue likely to be on the agenda is relations with Soviet Moldova, consisting largely of territory annexed from Romania by Soviet dictator Josef Stalin in 1940 under a secret protocol to the Hitler-Stalin pact.

Many Moldavians, espousing greater autonomy from Moscow, hope the revolution will open one of Eastern Europe's most tightly closed borders and foster cultural and other exchanges, which had been severely restricted in the past.

The Kremlin leader already has promised aid to the new Romania, including natural gas and oil

supplies. Under Ceausescu, Romania's 23 million citizens suffered through long winters with little heat or light in many homes.

In the interview, Shevardnadze underscored the Soviet Union's commitment to help.

"Now, particularly at this time, we attach great importance to strictly observing our obligations for deliveries of gas, oil, other raw materials, and in all fields," he said.

Ceausescu, ousted on Dec. 22 and executed with his wife Elena on Dec. 25, exported vast quantities of food, especially meat, to the Soviet Union to ensure energy supplies from Moscow.

But he used most of them for his pet industrial projects, imposing rationing that forced Romanians to wear thick coats indoors in winter, and forced opera orchestras to play while wearing gloves and fur hats.

# THE Sunday Crossword

Edited by Herb Etkess

THURSDAY  
By Roger Coburn

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